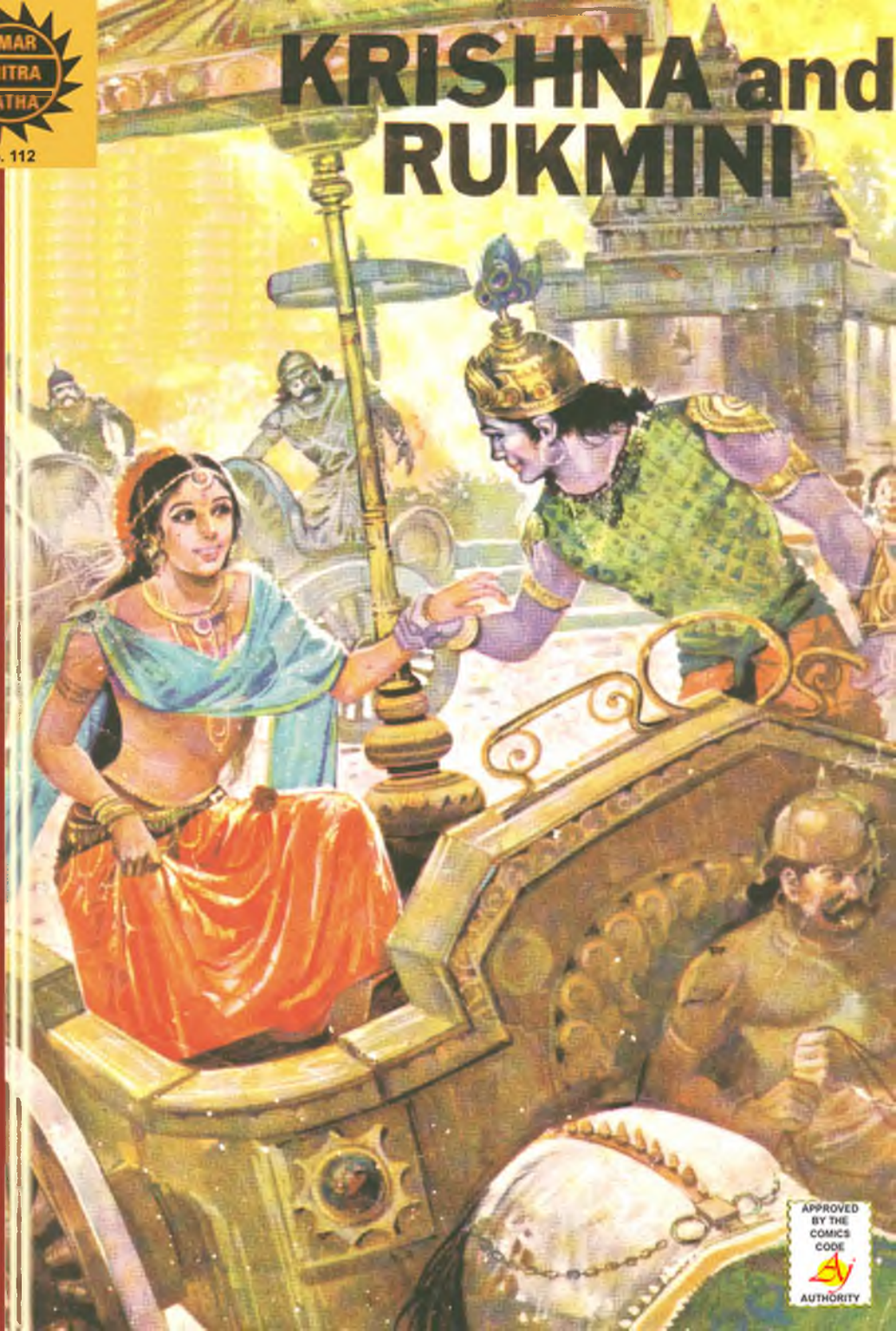




No. 112

# KRISHNA and RUKMINI

AMAR  
CHITRA  
KATHA



APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE



AUTHORITY

Krishna is the great lover of Indian mythology. Yet the details of the women he had wooed, won and wed are surprisingly limited and perhaps should be confined to his conquest of Rukmini. Here is the unalloyed romantic tale of none but the brave deserving the fair. Krishna here is the romantic hero par excellence who recklessly carries away his lady love under the very nose of his rivals.

Rukmini is a perfect foil to Krishna in this idyllic tale. It is she who though coy, makes the first move, by confidently revealing her heart to her lover. She plans the details of their escapade too and proves how high the status of resourceful women was in ancient India.

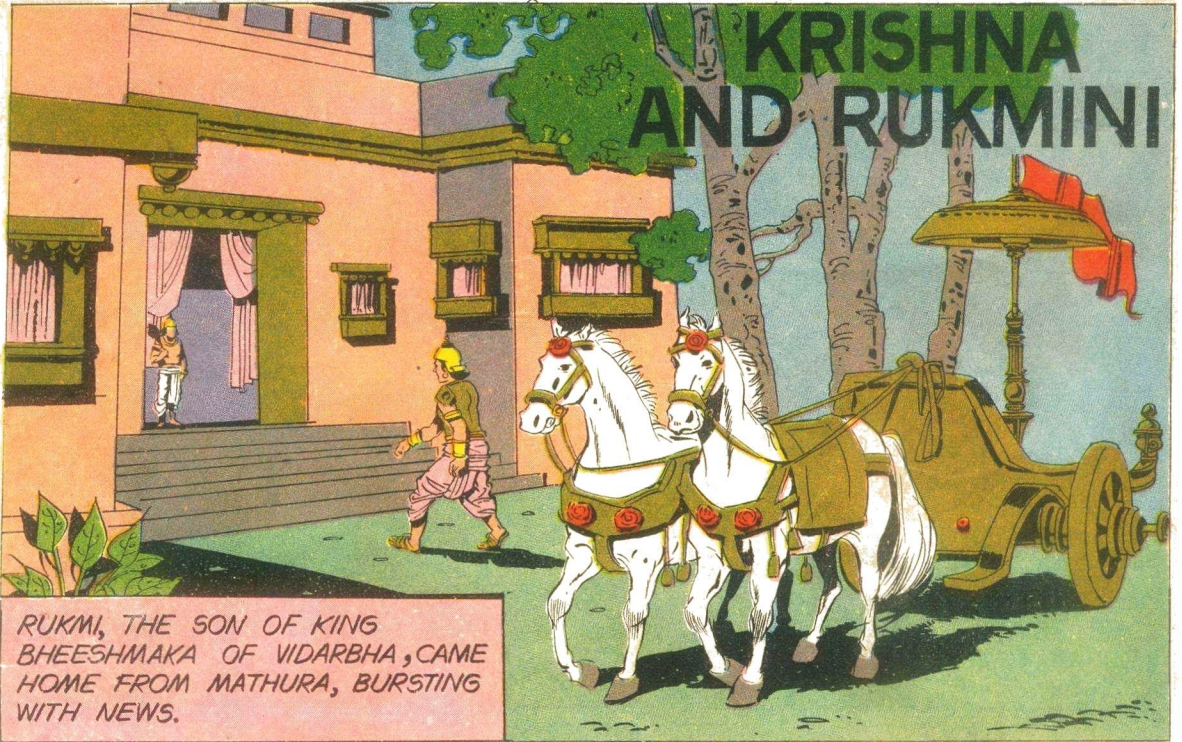
This story has been so popular all over our country, through the centuries, that even today to most of us the word "Swayamvara" has specific reference to the story of Krishna and Rukmini. And it is ironical that in the conventional sense it was hardly a Swayamvara.

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Script: Kamala Chandrakant      Illustrations: Pratap Mulick



# KRISHNA AND RUKMINI



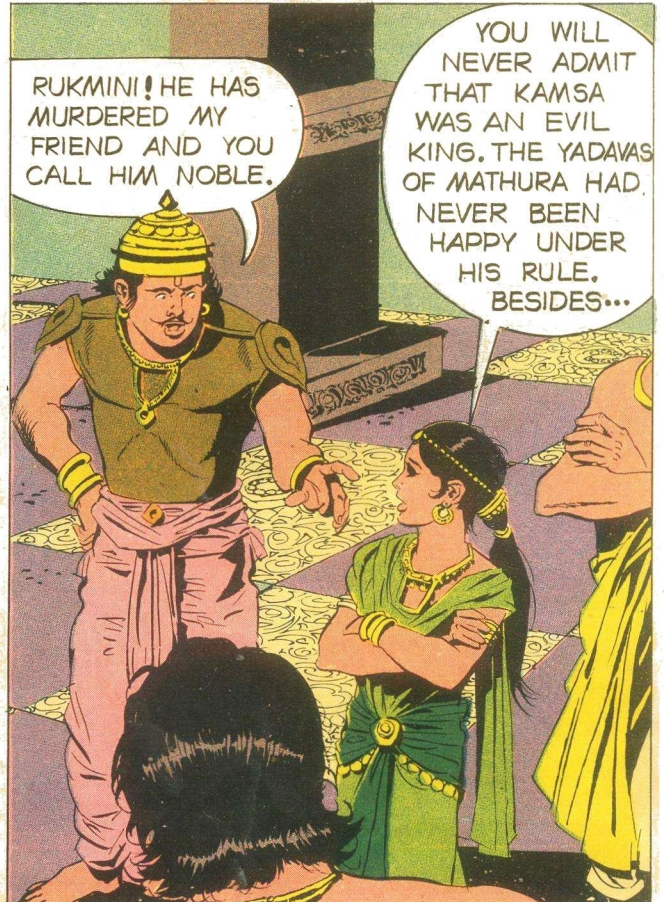
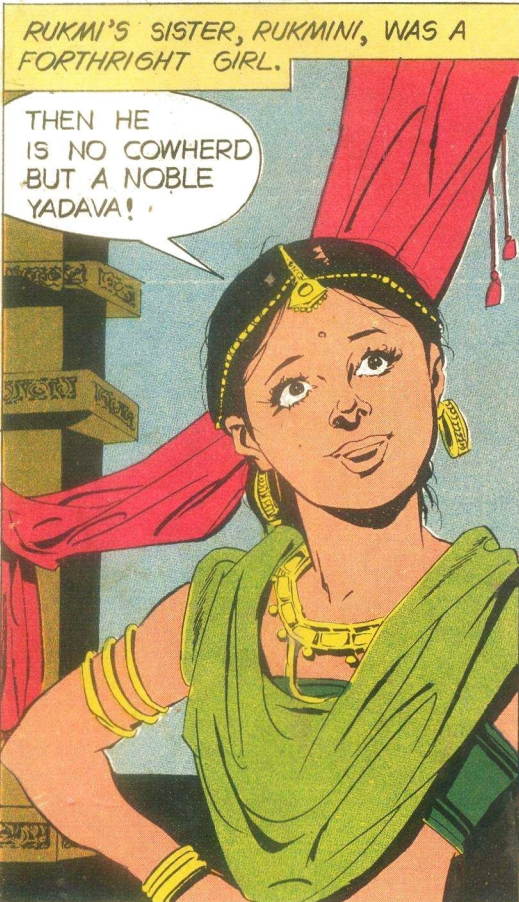
RUKMI, THE SON OF KING  
BHEESHMAKA OF VIDARBHA, CAME  
HOME FROM MATHURA, BURSTING  
WITH NEWS.

AS THE MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD SURROUNDED HIM —



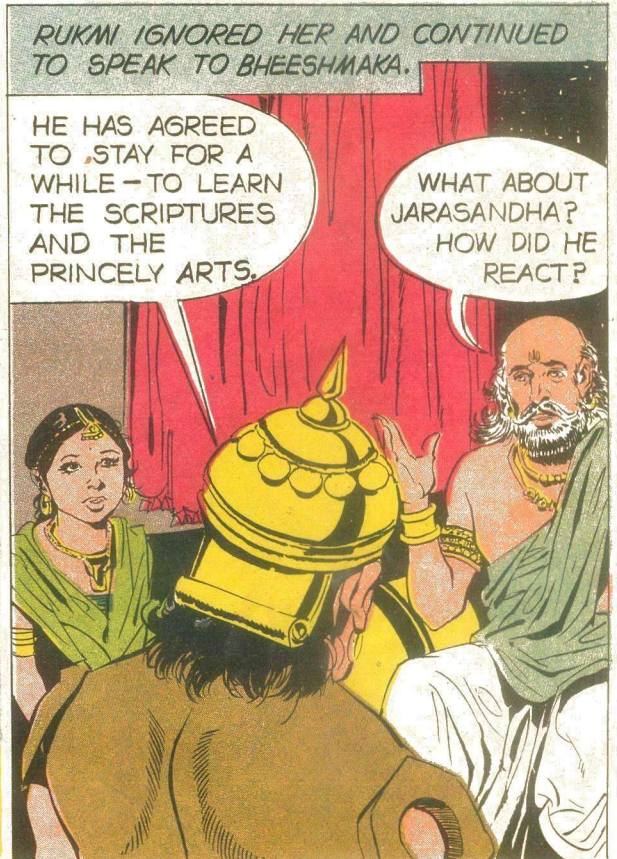
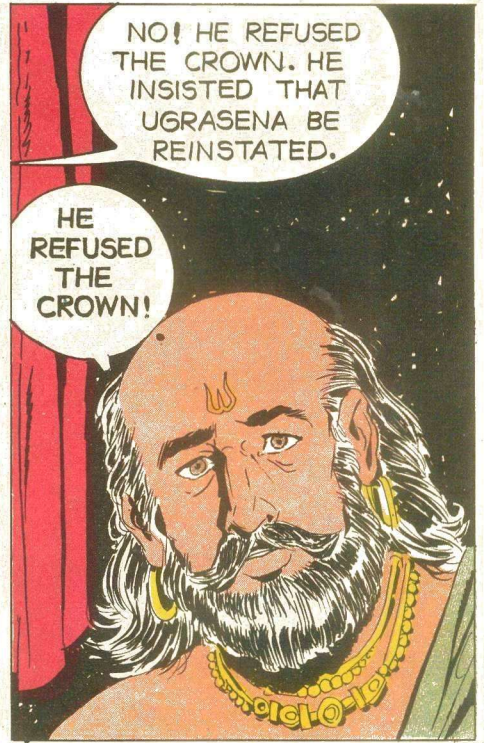
KRISHNA,  
THE COWHERD  
FROM VRINDAVAN,  
HAS SLAIN  
KAMSA.





\*IT WAS FORETOLD THAT VISHNU, REBORN AS THE EIGHTH SON OF DEVAKI, WOULD SLAY KAMSA.







JARASANDHA, KAMSA'S FATHER-IN-LAW, WAS THE EMPEROR OF MAGADHA, THE MOST POWERFUL KINGDOM OF THOSE DAYS. MATHURA, LIKE VIDARBHA AND MOST OTHER KINGDOMS, OWED ALLEGIANCE TO HIM.

THE EMPEROR IS FURIOUS. BOTH HIS DAUGHTERS\* HAVE BEEN WIDOWED IN ONE STROKE. HE VOWS TO TAKE REVENGE. HE HAS SENT FOR ME. I MUST GO AND SEE ABOUT THE CHARIOTS.



rukmini followed him.

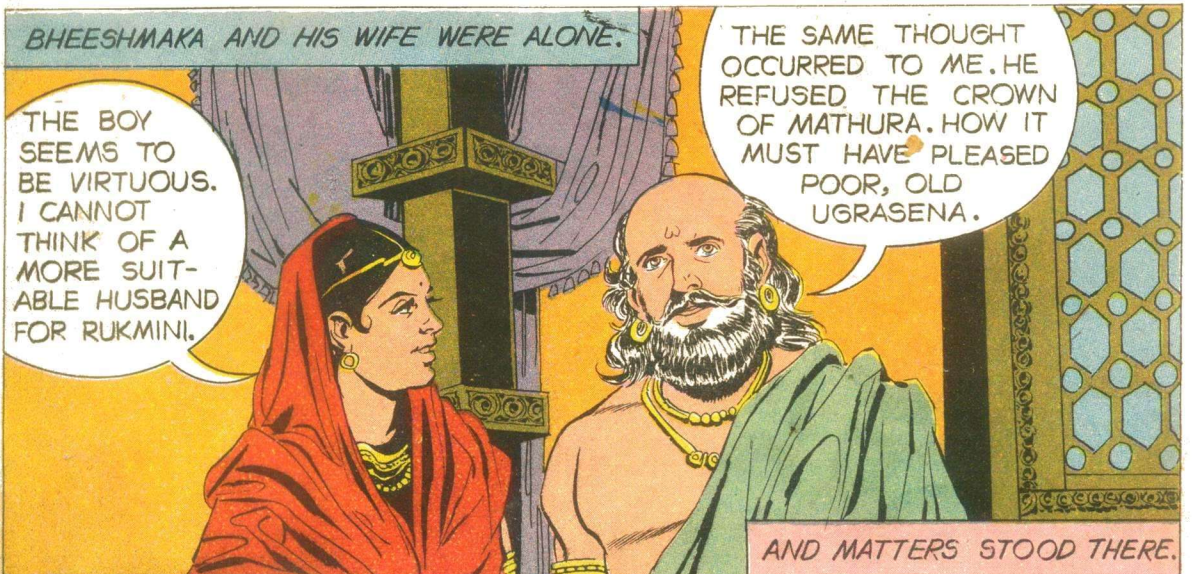
I MUST KNOW MORE ABOUT KRISHNA.



BHEESHMAKA AND HIS WIFE WERE ALONE.

THE BOY SEEMS TO BE VIRTUOUS. I CANNOT THINK OF A MORE SUITABLE HUSBAND FOR RUKMINI.

THE SAME THOUGHT OCCURRED TO ME. HE REFUSED THE CROWN OF MATHURA. HOW IT MUST HAVE PLEASED POOR, OLD UGRASENA.

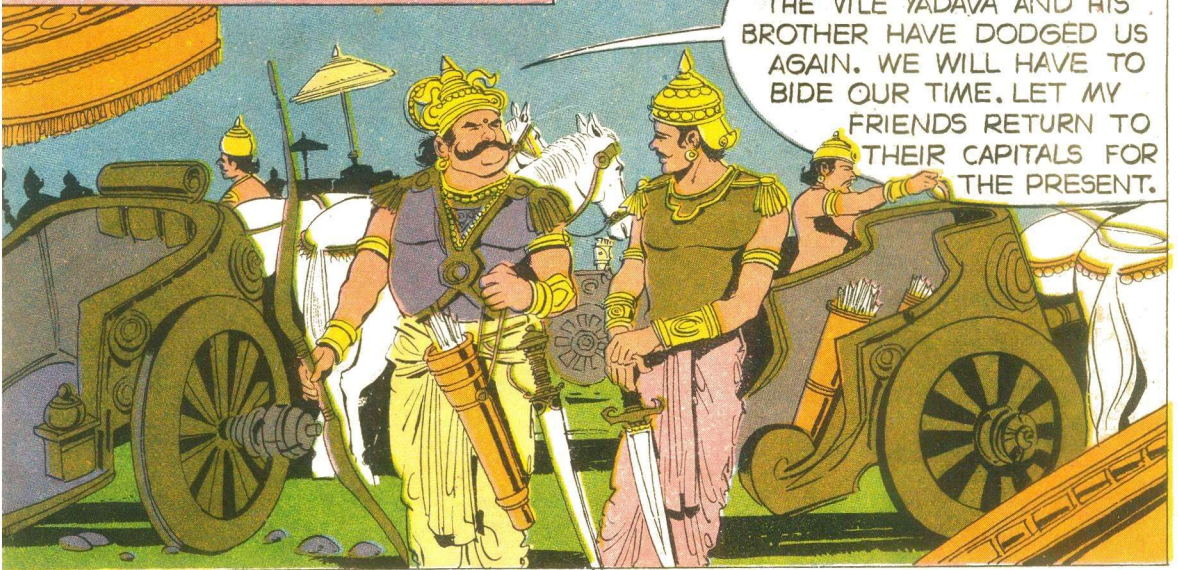


AND MATTERS STOOD THERE.

\*KAMSA'S WIVES.



MEANWHILE, WITH THE HELP OF RUKMI AND OTHER ALLIES, JARASANDHA MADE SEVERAL ATTEMPTS TO AVENGE THE DEATH OF HIS SON-IN-LAW, BUT IN VAIN. AFTER THE EIGHTEENTH ATTEMPT—



THE VILE YADAVA AND HIS BROTHER HAVE DODGED US AGAIN. WE WILL HAVE TO BIDE OUR TIME. LET MY FRIENDS RETURN TO THEIR CAPITALS FOR THE PRESENT.

AT DWARAKA, KRISHNA'S INACCESSIBLE ISLAND CITY—



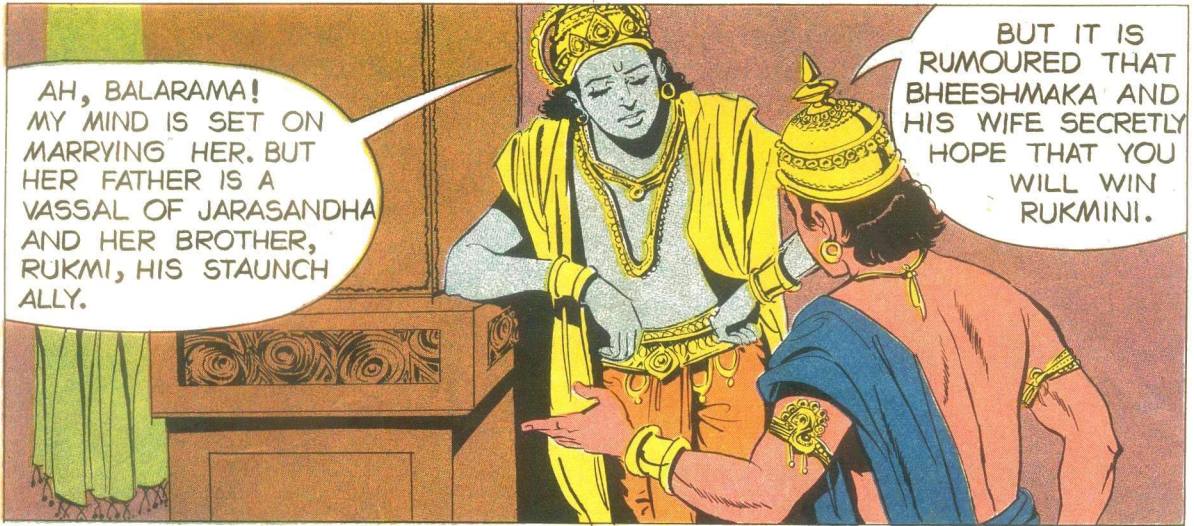
OUR SPIES SAY THAT JARASANDHA HAS DECIDED TO LIE LOW FOR A WHILE.

BALARAMA LOOKED AT KRISHNA WITH A MERRY TWINKLE IN HIS EYE.

NOW YOU'LL HAVE ALL THE LEISURE TO DREAM OF THE BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS OF VIDARBHA—THE MOST SOUGHT-AFTER PRINCESS ON EARTH.







AH, BALARAMA!  
MY MIND IS SET ON  
MARRYING HER. BUT  
HER FATHER IS A  
VASSAL OF JARASANDHA  
AND HER BROTHER,  
RUKMI, HIS STAUNCH  
ALLY.

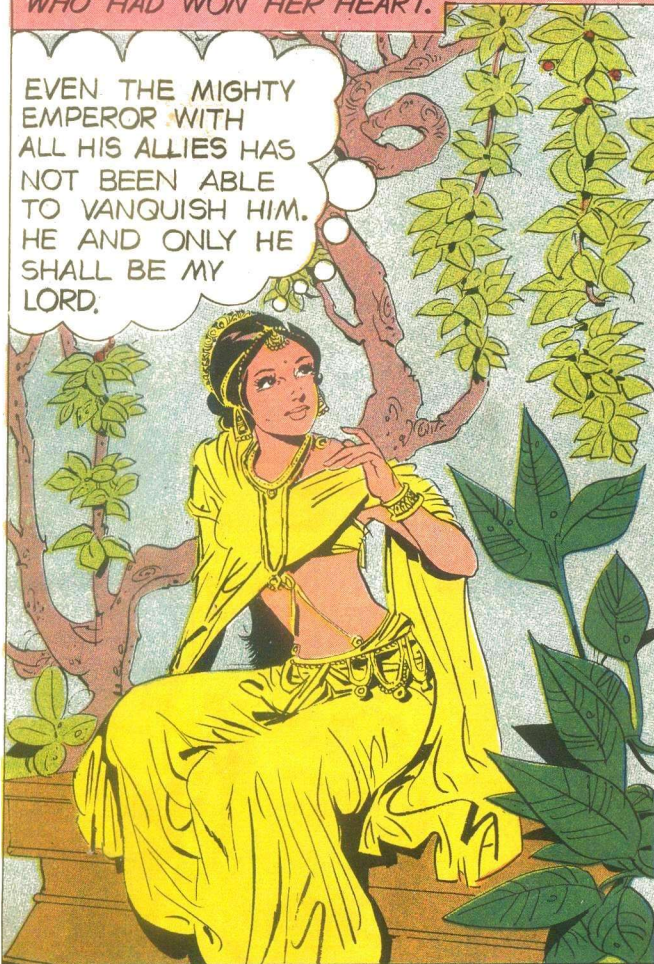
BUT IT IS  
RUMOURED THAT  
BHEESHMAKA AND  
HIS WIFE SECRETLY  
HOPE THAT YOU  
WILL WIN  
RUKMINI.

MEANWHILE, AT VIDARBHA, IN THE GARDEN  
OF BHEESMAKA'S PALACE, RUKMINI TOO  
WAS LOST IN DREAMS OF THE YADAVA HERO  
WHO HAD WON HER HEART.

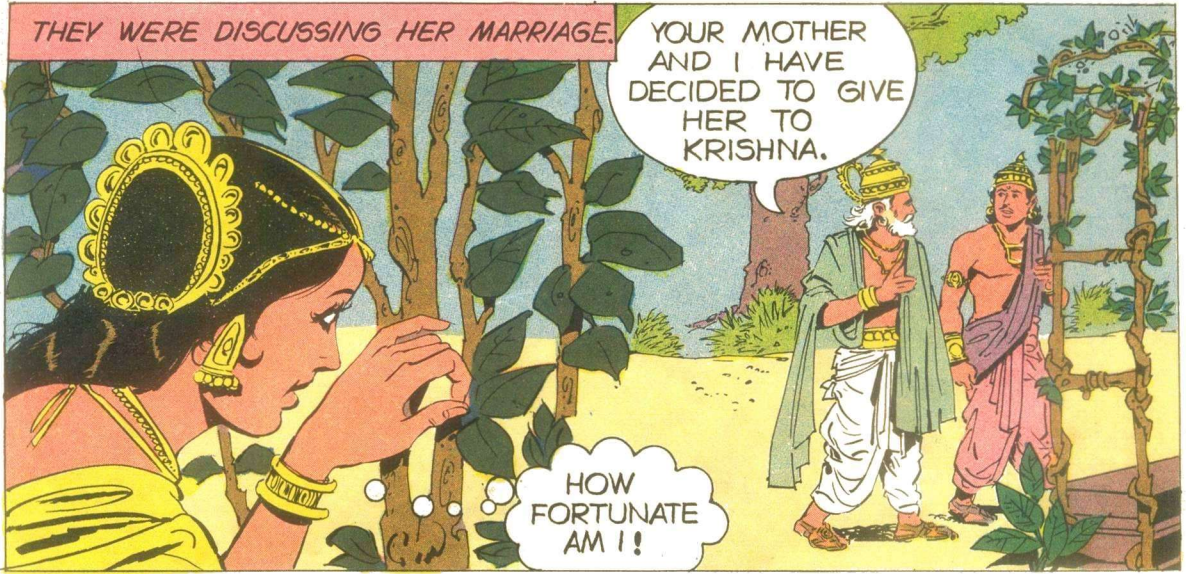
SUDDENLY SHE HEARD VOICES.

MY FATHER!  
RUKMI!  
THEY'RE  
COMING  
THIS WAY.

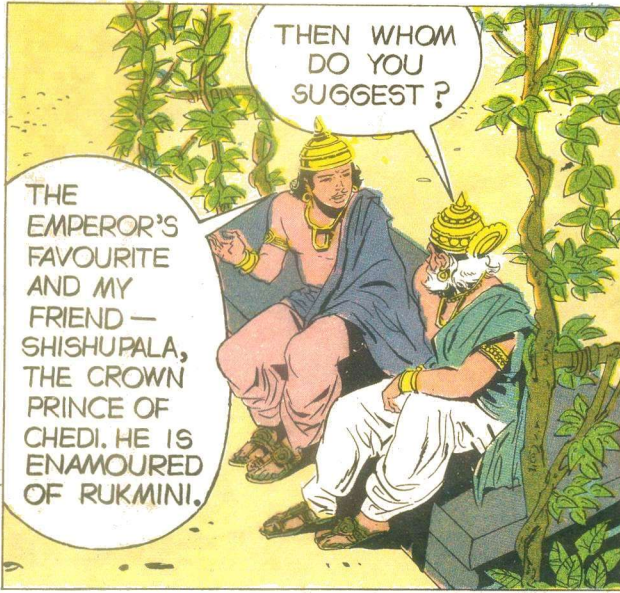
EVEN THE MIGHTY  
EMPEROR WITH  
ALL HIS ALLIES HAS  
NOT BEEN ABLE  
TO VANQUISH HIM.  
HE AND ONLY HE  
SHALL BE MY  
LORD.



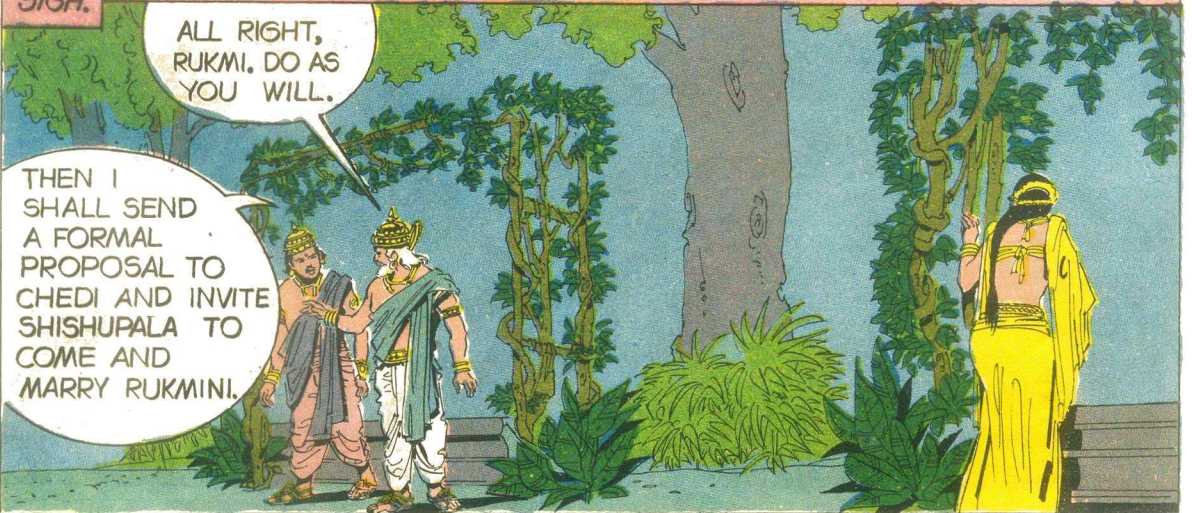








BUT BHEESHMAKA INvariably PERMITTED HIS ELDEST SON TO MAKE ALL MAJOR DECISIONS, EVEN IF THEY DID NOT COINCIDE WITH HIS OWN WISHES. HE HEAVED A SIGH.



THEY WALKED AWAY, LITTLE KNOWING THAT RUKMINI HAD OVERHEARD EVERY WORD OF THEIR CONVERSATION.



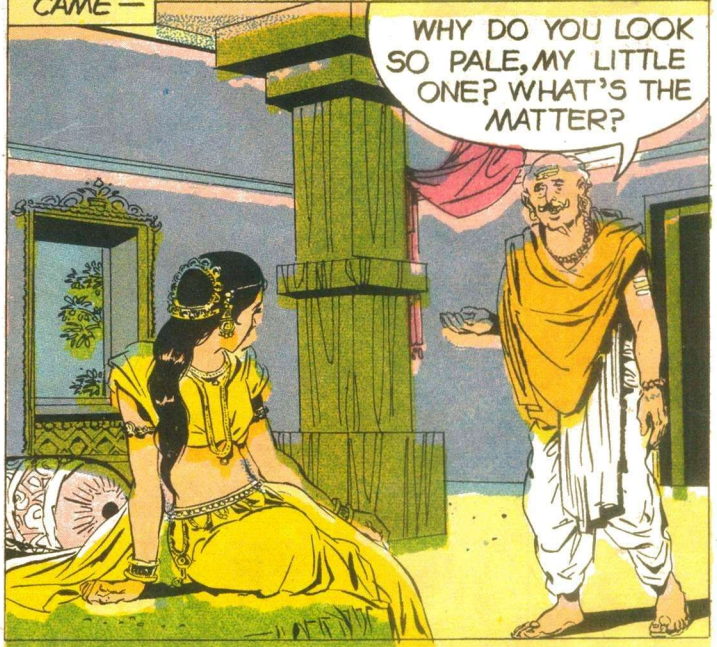


SUDDENLY AN IDEA OCCURRED TO HER.

WHY NOT! WHY SHOULDN'T I? AFTER ALL MY PARENTS ARE FOR IT.

SHE WENT INTO THE PALACE AND SENT FOR SUNANDA - A BRAHMAN WHOM SHE TRUSTED AND WHO WAS DEVOTED TO HER. WHEN HE CAME -

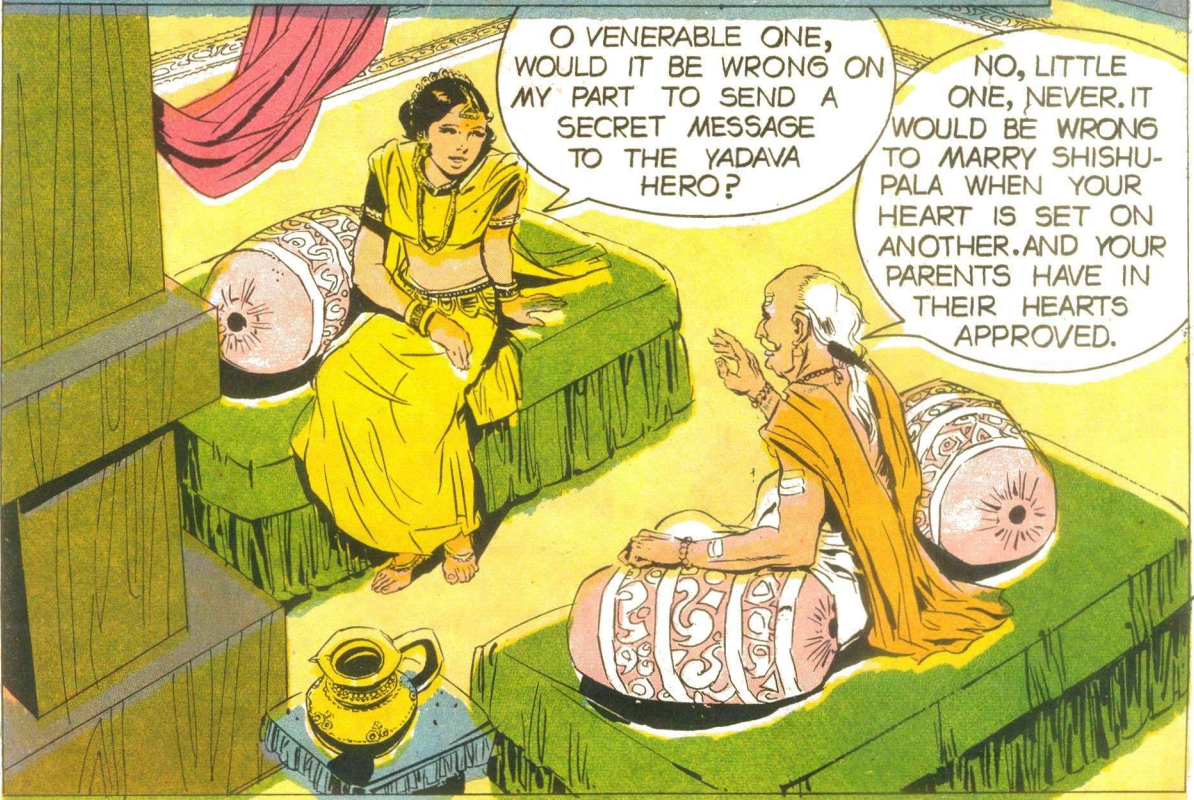
WHY DO YOU LOOK SO PALE, MY LITTLE ONE? WHAT'S THE MATTER?



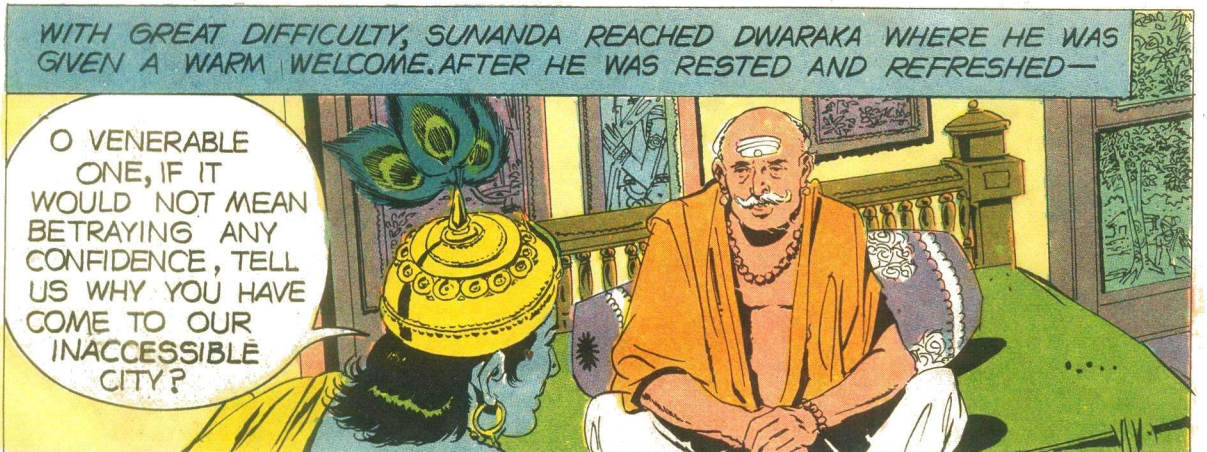
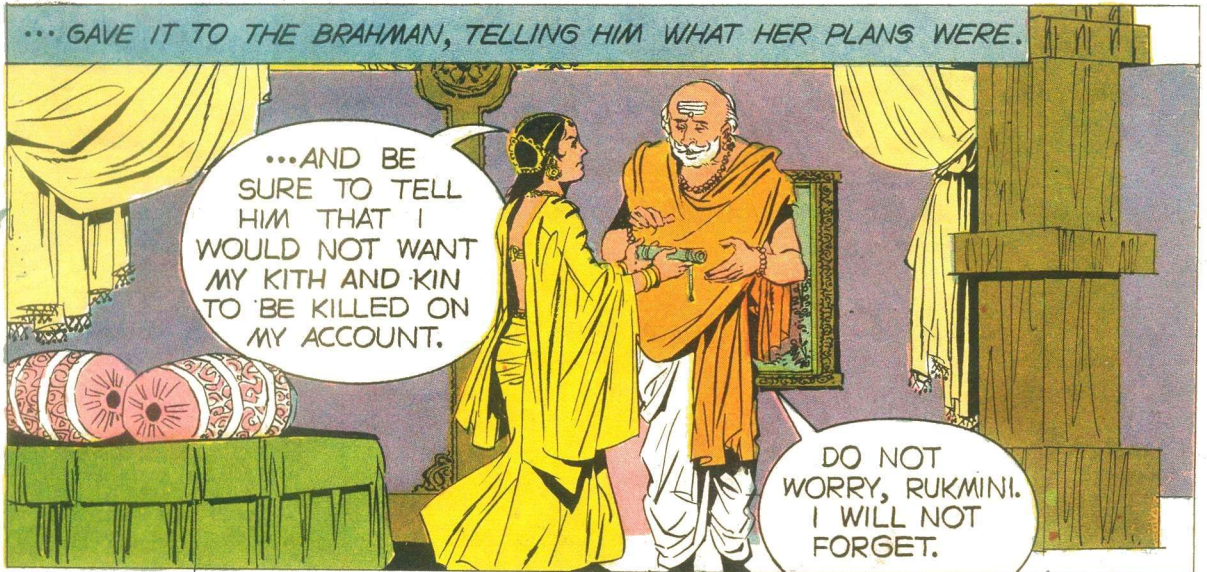
SHE TOLD HIM ABOUT THE CONVERSATION SHE HAD OVERHEARD. THEN -

O VENERABLE ONE, WOULD IT BE WRONG ON MY PART TO SEND A SECRET MESSAGE TO THE YADAVA HERO?

NO, LITTLE ONE, NEVER. IT WOULD BE WRONG TO MARRY SHISHU-PALA WHEN YOUR HEART IS SET ON ANOTHER. AND YOUR PARENTS HAVE IN THEIR HEARTS APPROVED.











SUNANDA TOLD KRISHNA ABOUT THE CONVERSATION THAT RUKMINI HAD OVERHEARD. THEN HE GAVE KRISHNA, RUKMINI'S MESSAGE.

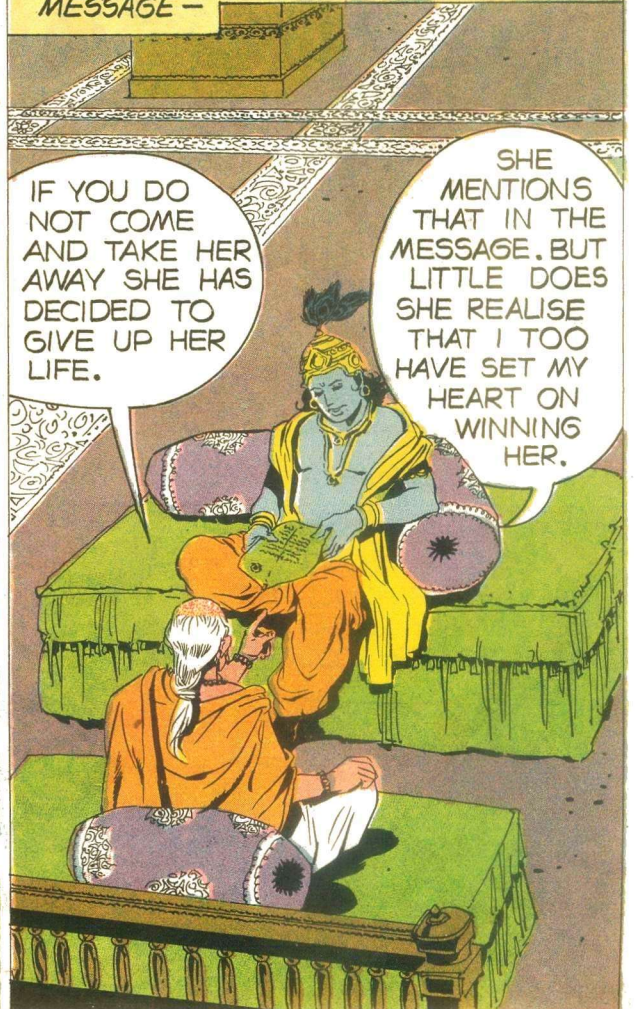
... I HAVE CHOSEN YOU AS MY HUSBAND. COME TO VIDARBHA, VANQUISH THE ARMIES OF JARASANDHA AND SHISHUPALA AND CLAIM ME...



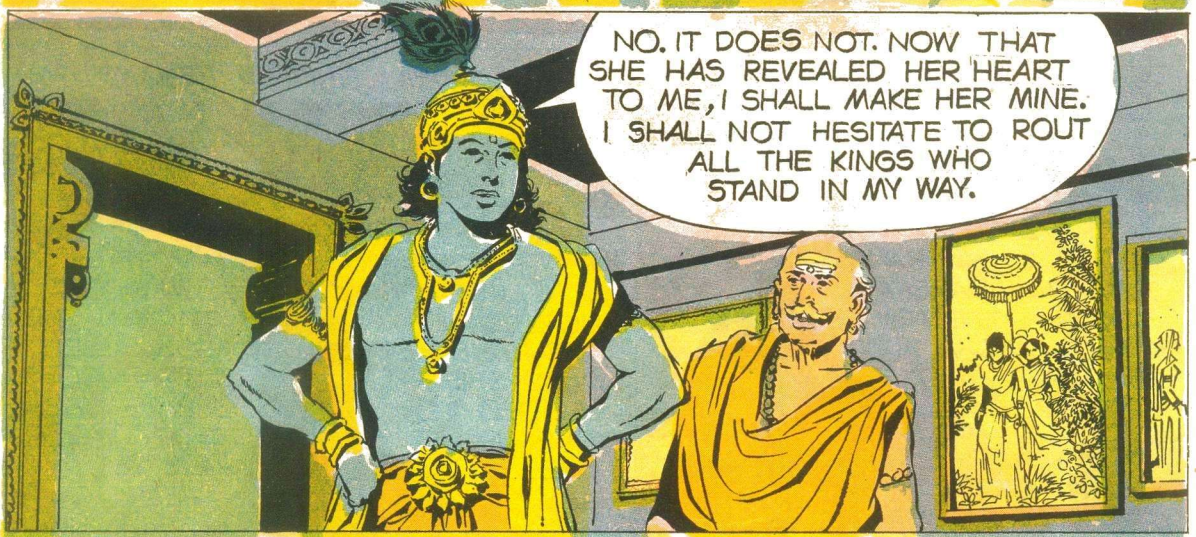
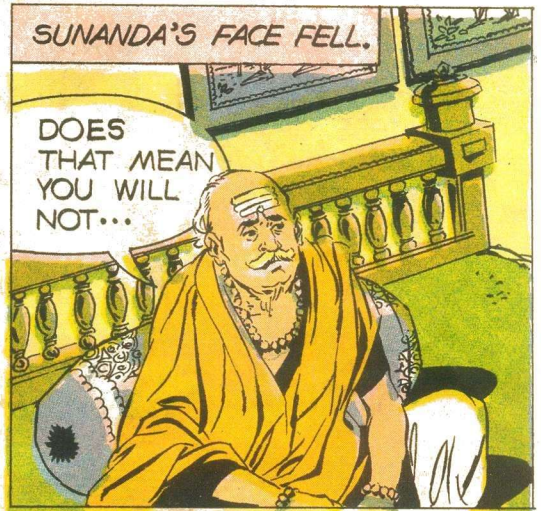
WHEN KRISHNA FINISHED READING THE MESSAGE —

IF YOU DO NOT COME AND TAKE HER AWAY SHE HAS DECIDED TO GIVE UP HER LIFE.

SHE MENTIONS THAT IN THE MESSAGE. BUT LITTLE DOES SHE REALISE THAT I TOO HAVE SET MY HEART ON WINNING HER.







OVERJOYED, SUNANDA UNFOLDED THE REST OF RUKMINI'S PLANS. THEN —



\* RUKMINI IS BELIEVED TO BE THE GODDESS LAXMI REBORN ON EARTH.



KRISHNA SENT FOR HIS CHARIOTEER.  
WHEN HE CAME—

GET MY CHARIOT  
READY AT ONCE,  
DARUKA. AND TELL  
BALARAMA THAT  
I SHALL BE LEAV-  
ING FOR VIDARBHA  
IMMEDIATELY.

MEANWHILE, RUKMI'S FORMAL  
PROPOSAL AND INVITATION HAD  
REACHED SHISHUPALA. HE WAS  
JUBILANT.

RUKMI SAYS  
THAT THERE IS NOT  
GOING TO BE ANY SWAYAM-  
WARA. ALL I HAVE TO DO IS  
TO GO TO VIDARBHA AND  
MARRY RUKMINI. THE EMPEROR  
MUST HEAR THE GOOD NEWS.

BUT JARASANDHA WAS NOT AS  
CONFIDENT.

IT'S NOT AS EASY  
AS YOU THINK. I DO  
NOT TRUST THAT VILE  
COWHERD. HE IS SURE TO  
HEAR OF THE NEWS AND  
SNATCH THE BRIDE AWAY. WE  
WILL HAVE TO BE PREPARED.



JARASANDHA SENT FOR ALL HIS VASSALS AND ALLIES.

I AM BENT ON SECURING THE PRINCESS OF VIDARBHA FOR SHISHUPALA. YOU MUST BE READY TO CONFRONT THE COWHERD IF HE COMES THERE AND TRIES TO TAKE AWAY THE BRIDE.



MEANWHILE, AS SOON AS KRISHNA HAD LEFT DWARAKA, ONE OF BALARAMA'S SPIES CAME TO HIM.

LORD, THE EMPEROR HAS INFORMED ALL HIS ALLIES TO MARCH TO VIDARBHA. HE EXPECTS TROUBLE FROM US.

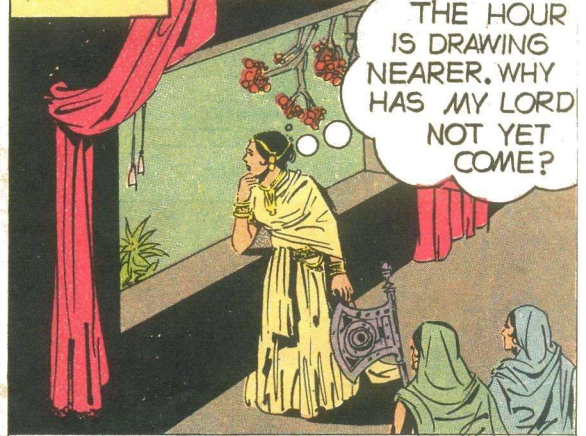
AND KRISHNA HAS GONE ALL ALONE!

GET MY CHARIOT READY! RALLY OUR ARMIES! ELEPHANTS, HORSES, CHARIOTS, ALL!



AT VIDARBHA, RUKMINI'S ANXIETY, INCREASED WITH EACH PASSING MOMENT.

THE HOUR IS DRAWING NEARER. WHY HAS MY LORD NOT YET COME?

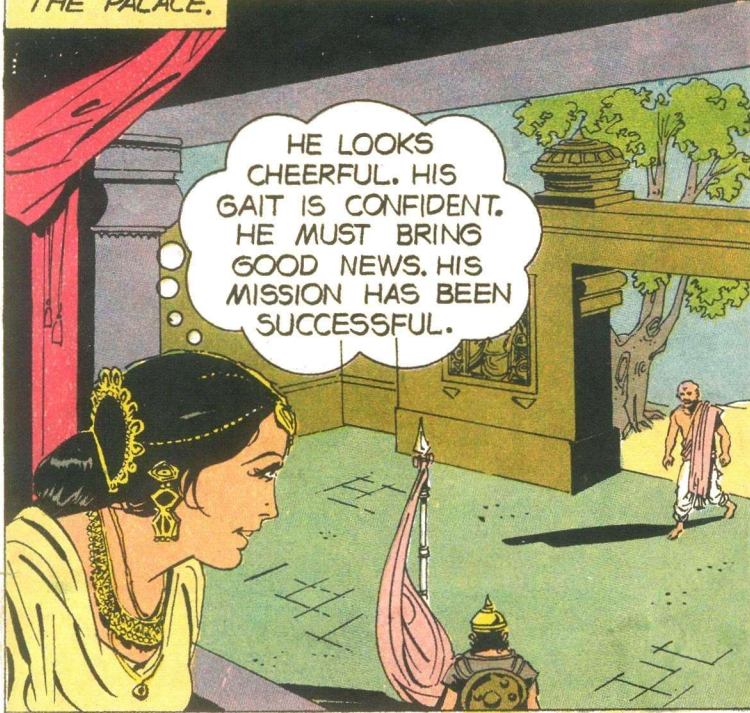


DID MY MESSAGE DISGUST HIM? IF SO, THEN WHY HASN'T SUNANDA RETURNED?





AS SHE LOOKED OUT OF THE WINDOW FOR THE HUNDREDTH TIME, SHE SAW SUNANDA ENTER THE PALACE.



HE LOOKS CHEERFUL. HIS GAIT IS CONFIDENT. HE MUST BRING GOOD NEWS. HIS MISSION HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL.

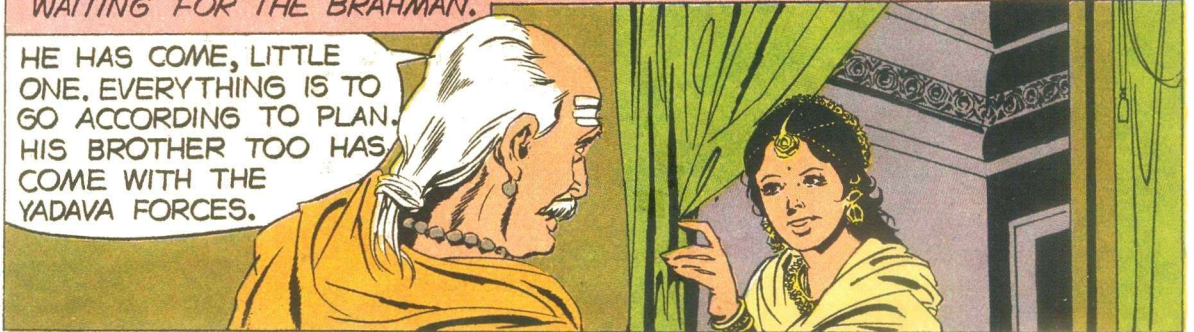
SHE TURNED TO HER MAIDS.

YOU MAY GO TO YOUR ROOMS. I WISH TO BE ALONE.



WHEN THEY LEFT, SHE RAN TO THE DOOR OF THE ROOM AND STOOD WAITING FOR THE BRAHMAN.

HE HAS COME, LITTLE ONE. EVERYTHING IS TO GO ACCORDING TO PLAN. HIS BROTHER TOO HAS COME WITH THE YADAVA FORCES.



NEWS OF KRISHNA'S ARRIVAL REACHED BHEESHMAKA, TOO.

KRISHNA HAS ARRIVED. HE HAS COME TO WITNESS THE WEDDING OF THE PRINCESS.

DARE I HOPE THAT HE HAS COME TO CARRY AWAY RUKMINI? DARE I?



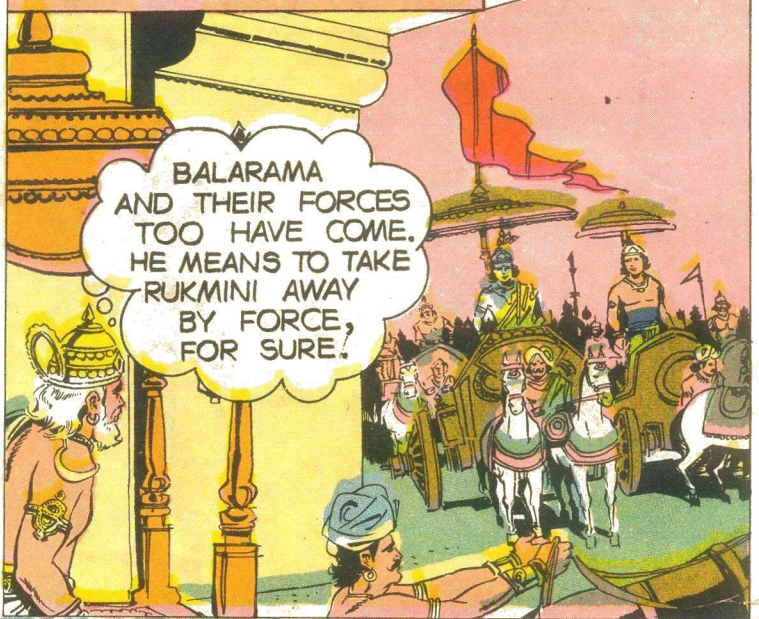


HAVE A MANSION READY FOR HIM. FURNISH IT WITH EVERY LUXURY. I SHALL RIDE OUT TO RECEIVE HIM.



AT THE GATES OF THE CITY—

BALARAMA AND THEIR FORCES TOO HAVE COME. HE MEANS TO TAKE RUKMINI AWAY BY FORCE, FOR SURE!



WELCOME, O PRINCES! WE ARE HAPPY TO SEE YOU HERE. COME LET ME LEAD YOU TO THE PALACE WHERE YOU WILL STAY.



AS THEY RODE INTO THE CITY, THEY PASSED THE SHRINE OF GODDESS PARVATI, THE FAMILY DEITY OF THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD.

AH! THAT IS THE TEMPLE RUKMINI WROTE ABOUT. HOW ANXIOUS MY DEAR ONE MUST BE.



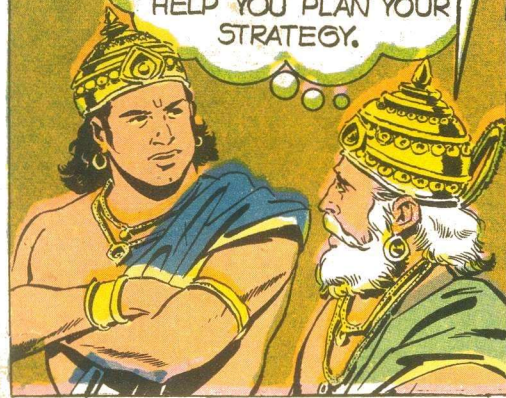


BALARAMA WAS CONCERNED ABOUT OTHER THINGS. HE TURNED TO BHEESHMAKA.

THE EMPEROR AND HIS MEN HAVE FLOODED THE CITY.

SHISHUPALA IS THE EMPEROR'S FAVOURITE. AND THE EMPEROR HAS MANY ALLIES.

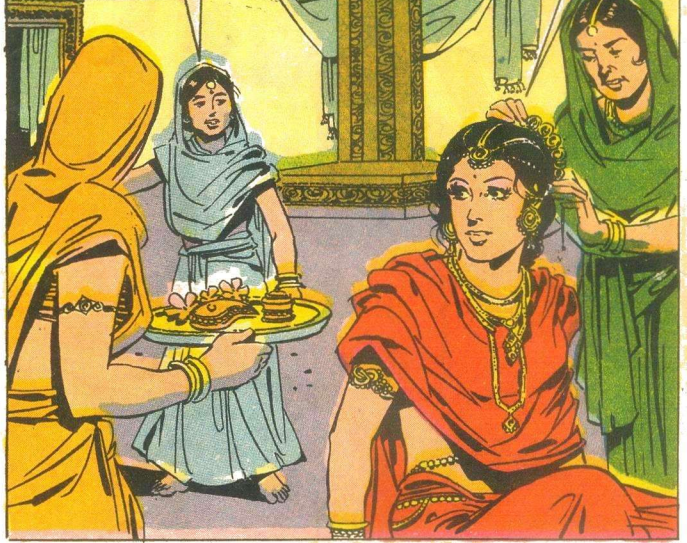
THIS SHOULD HELP YOU PLAN YOUR STRATEGY.



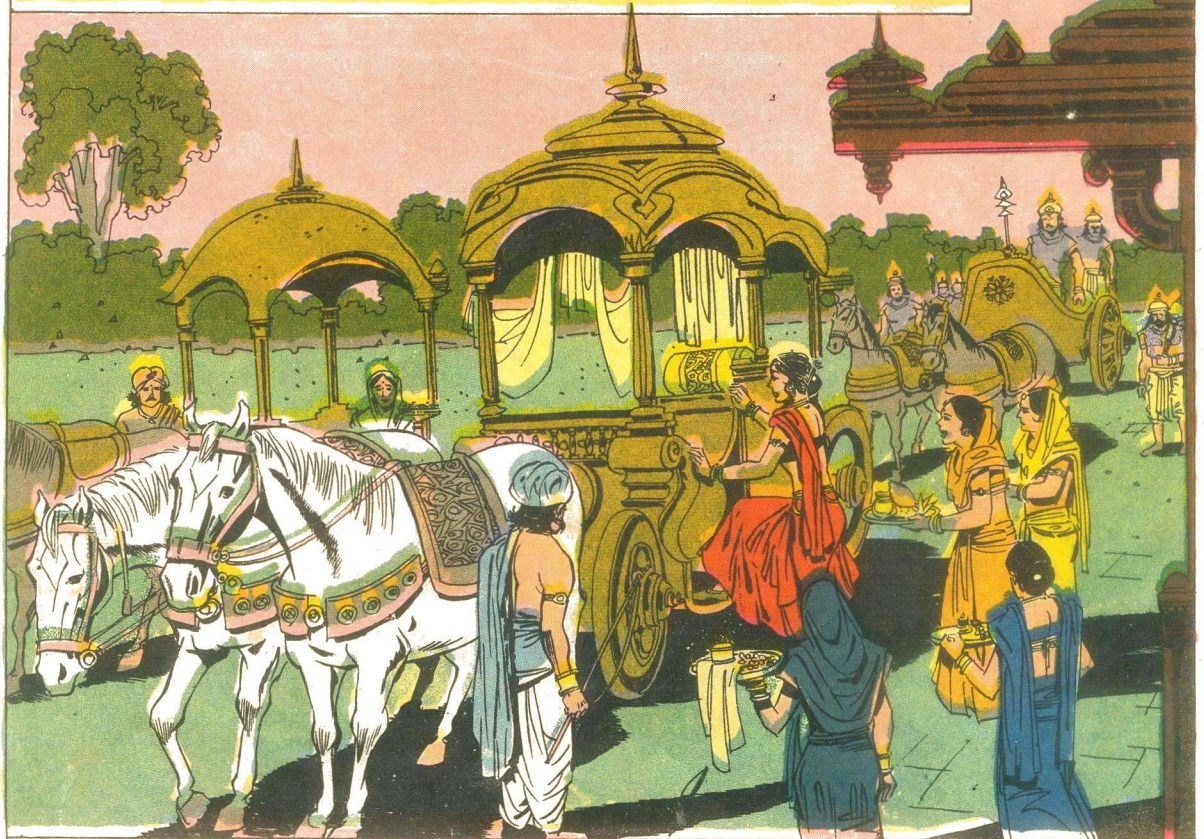
MEANWHILE AT THE PALACE—

RUKMINI, YOUR CHARIOT HAS ARRIVED. ARE YOU READY?

I AM. LET US LEAVE.



ACCOMPANIED BY HER MAIDS, RUKMINI LEFT FOR THE SHRINE.

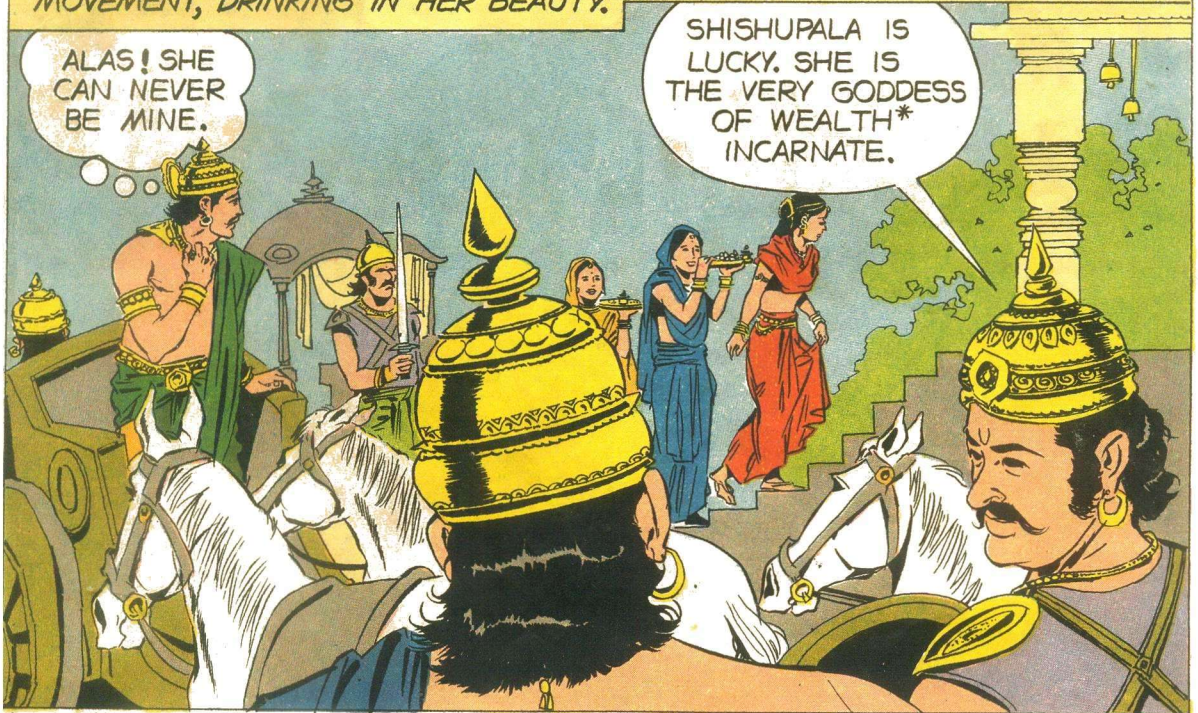




WHEN THEY REACHED THE GATES OF THE TEMPLE COURTYARD, SHE STEPPED OUT OF HER CHARIOT.

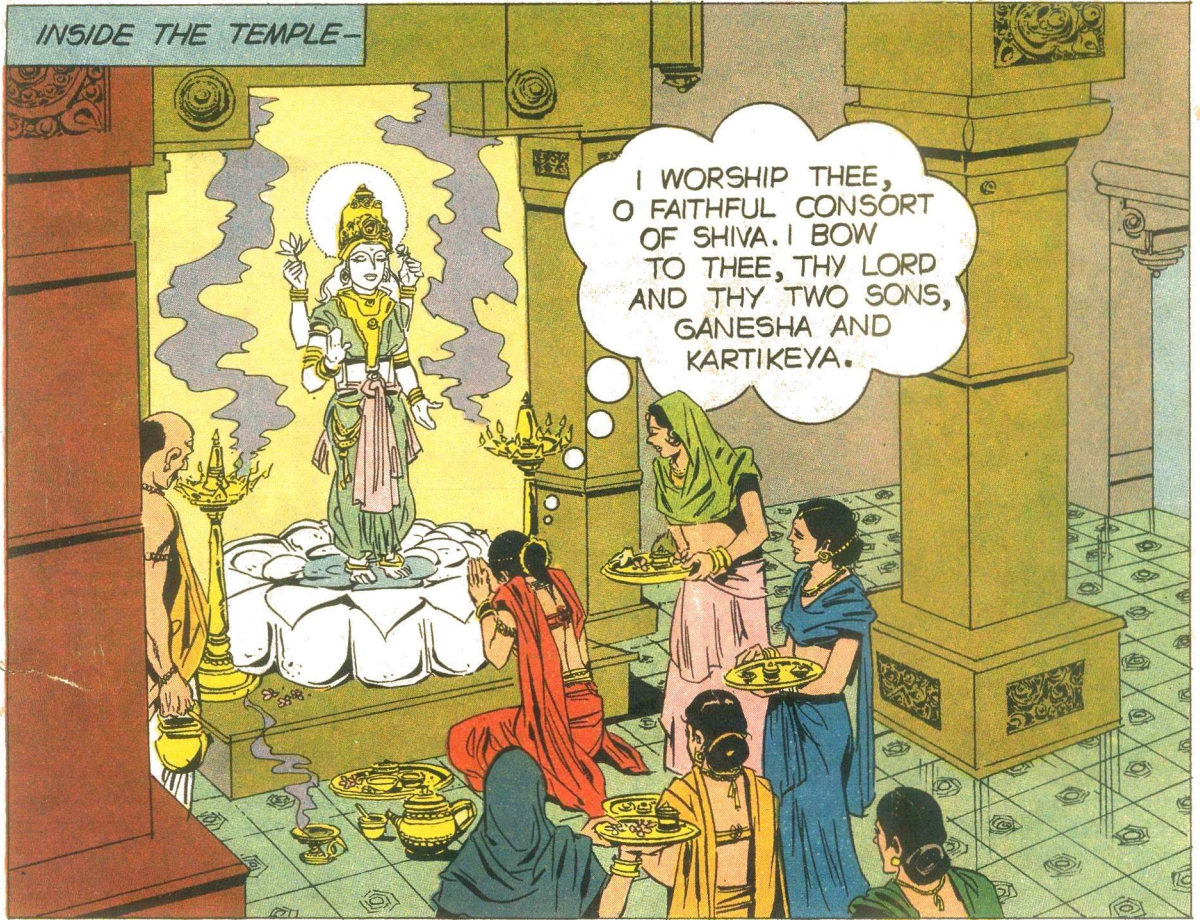


AS SHE WALKED TO THE TEMPLE, A MYRIAD EYES FOLLOWED HER EVERY MOVEMENT, DRINKING IN HER BEAUTY.





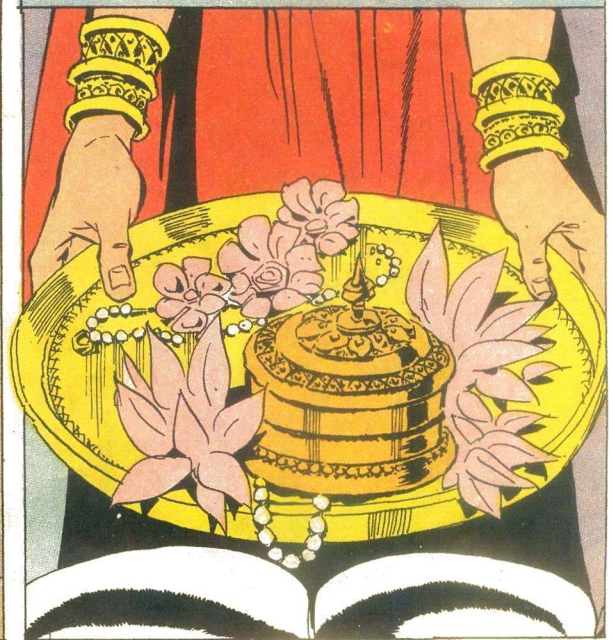
INSIDE THE TEMPLE—



SHE WASHED THE GODDESS' FEET AND...



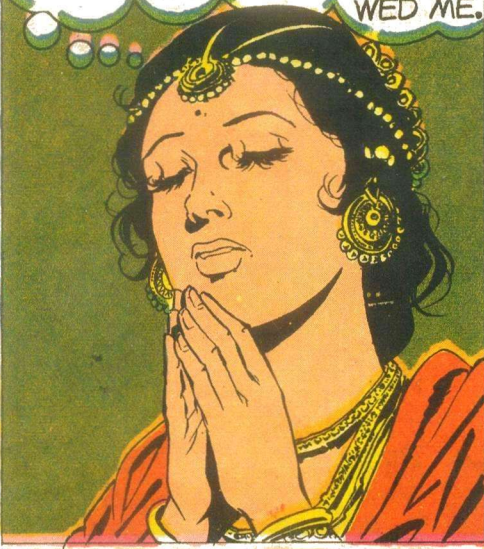
...PLACED OFFERINGS BEFORE HER.





THEN, OVERCOME BY THE  
THOUGHT THAT FILLED HER  
BEING, SHE PLEADED WITH  
THE GODDESS.

O GODDESS,  
PLEASE LET KRISHNA AND  
ONLY KRISHNA WIN AND  
WED ME.



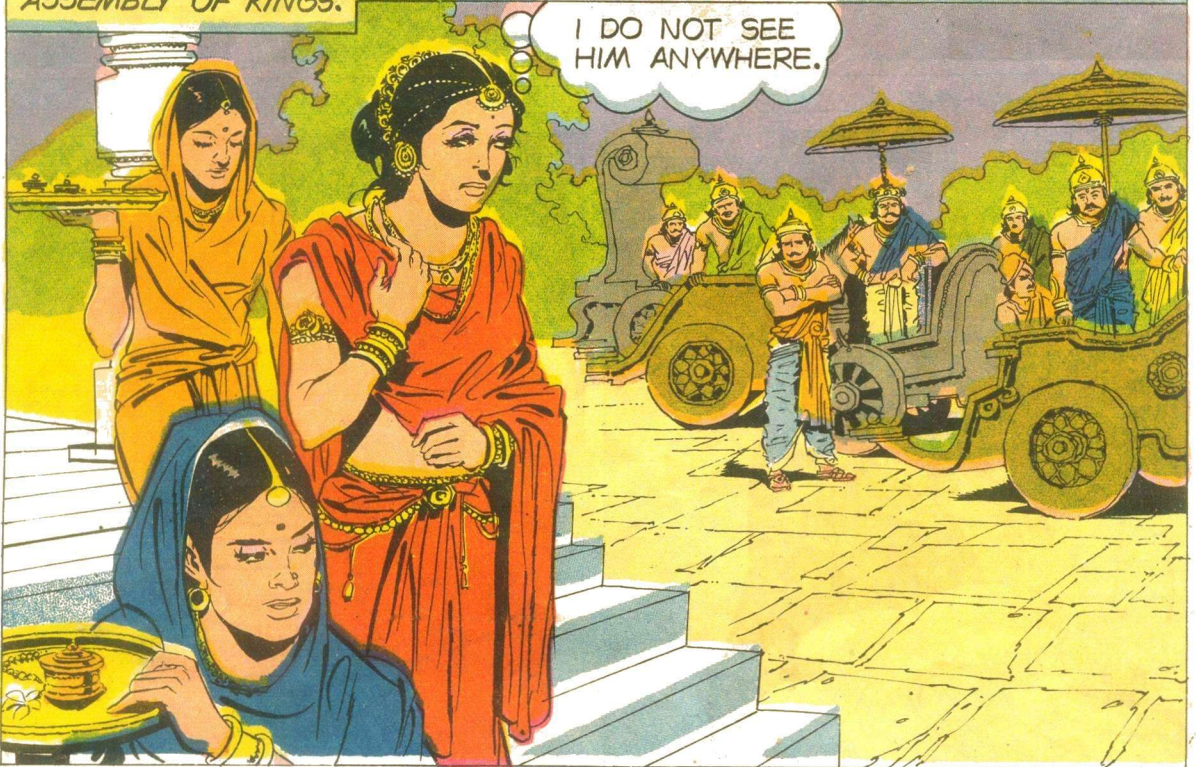
HER WORSHIP OVER, SHE CAME OUT OF  
THE TEMPLE.

O GODDESS,  
DO NOT FAIL  
ME.

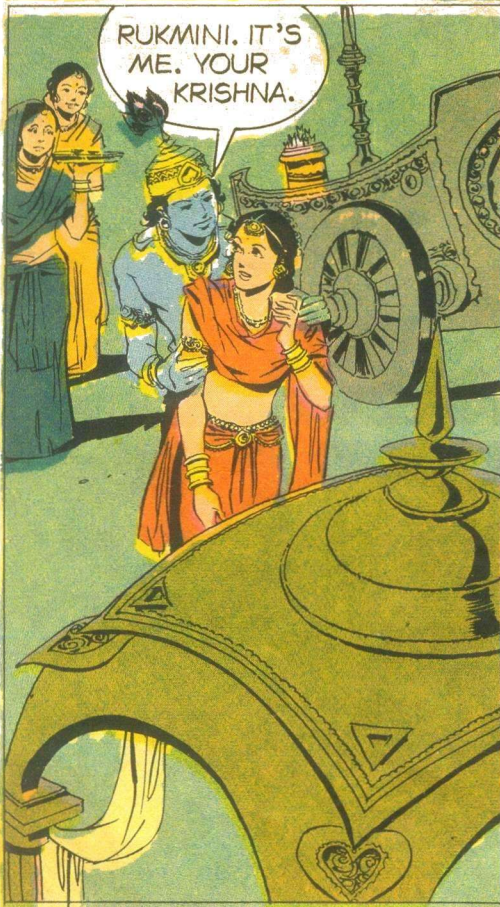
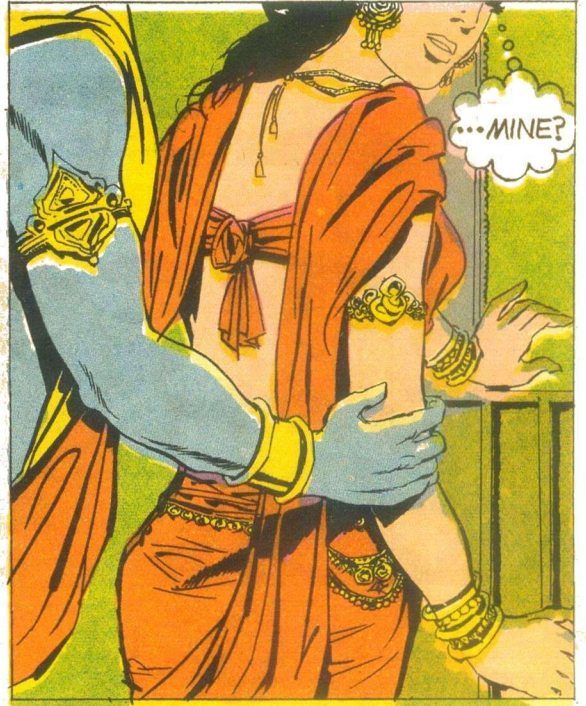


AS SHE WALKED TOWARDS THE GATE, HER EYES ANXIOUSLY SCANNED THE  
ASSEMBLY OF KINGS.

I DO NOT SEE  
HIM ANYWHERE.

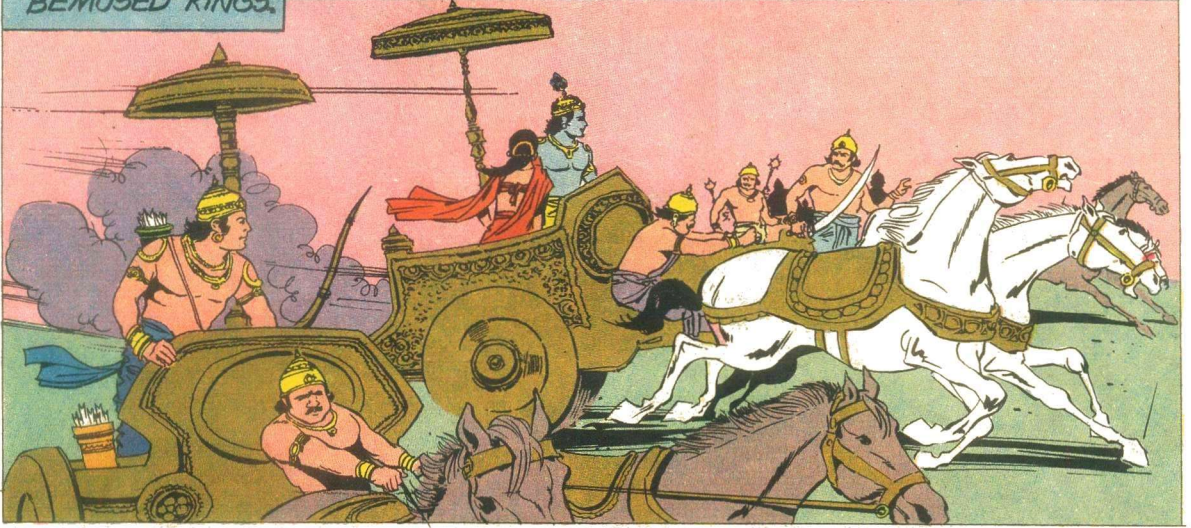






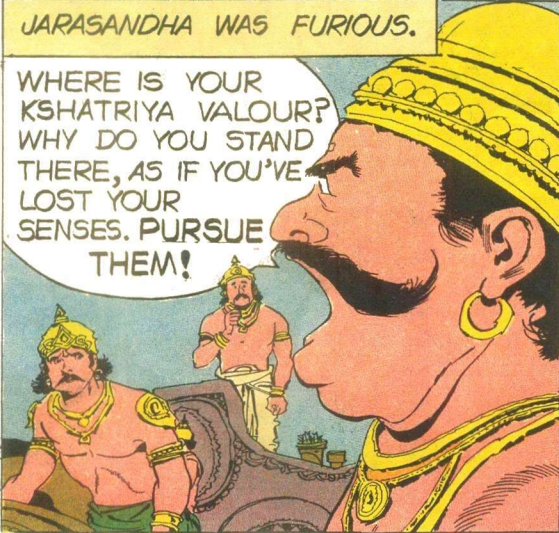


BUT KRISHNA'S CHARIOT SPED AWAY BLOWING DUST INTO THE EYES OF THE BEMUSED KINGS.

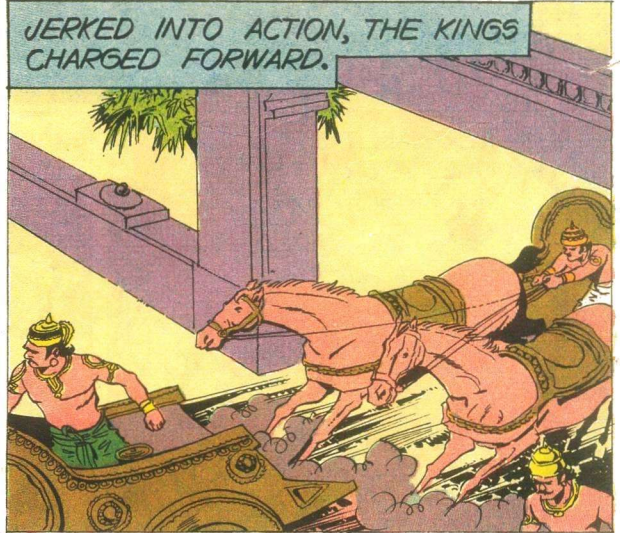


JARASANDHA WAS FURIOUS.

WHERE IS YOUR KSHATRIYA VALOUR? WHY DO YOU STAND THERE, AS IF YOU'VE LOST YOUR SENSES. PURSUE THEM!

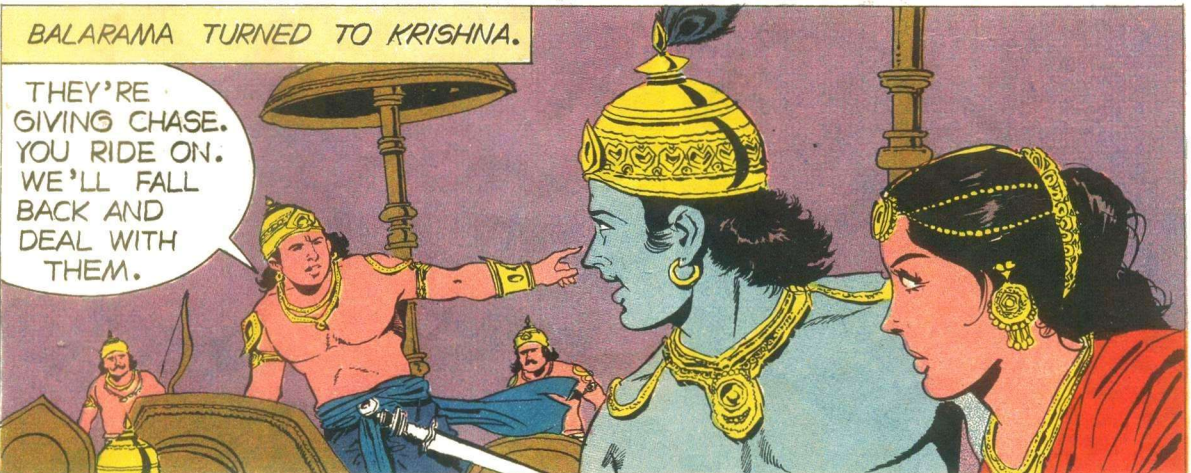


JERKED INTO ACTION, THE KINGS CHARGED FORWARD.



BALARAMA TURNED TO KRISHNA.

THEY'RE GIVING CHASE. YOU RIDE ON. WE'LL FALL BACK AND DEAL WITH THEM.





WHEN RUKMINI LOOKED UP IN TERROR AT KRISHNA, HE LAUGHED HEARTILY AND ALLAYED HER FEARS.

DON'T BE ALARMED. OUR ARMIES WILL SOON ROUT THE ENEMY. BALARAMA WILL NOT LOSE HIS DEAR SISTER-IN-LAW SO EASILY.

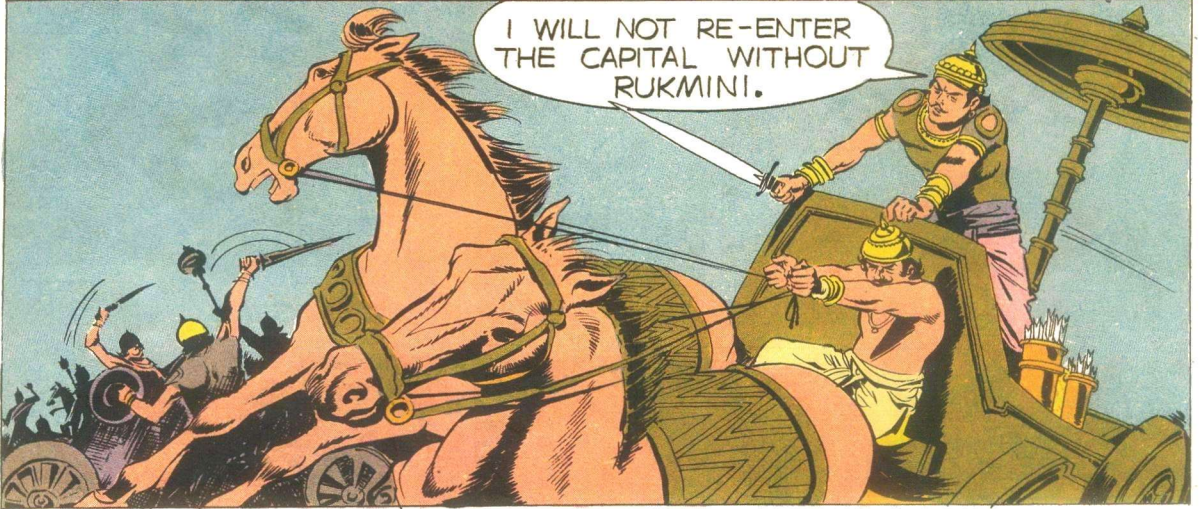
HE WAS RIGHT.

CHASE THE JACKALS AWAY, MY MEN! SHOOT THEIR HORSES! DESTROY THEIR CHARIOTS!



WHILE BALARAMA WAS BUSY TACKLING JARASANDHA, SHISHUPALA AND THEIR HORDES, RUKMI CHARGED AHEAD AFTER KRISHNA'S VANISHING CHARIOT.

I WILL NOT RE-ENTER THE CAPITAL WITHOUT RUKMINI.

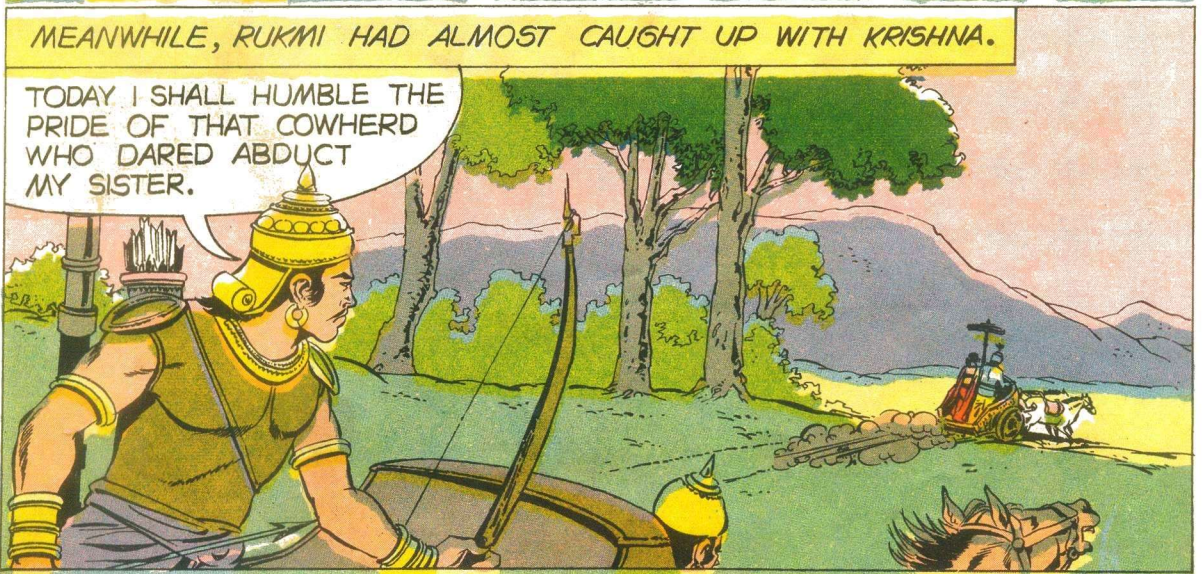
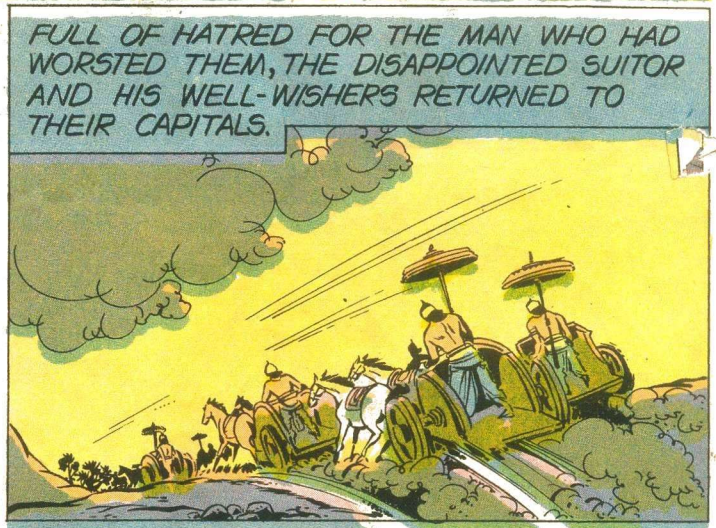
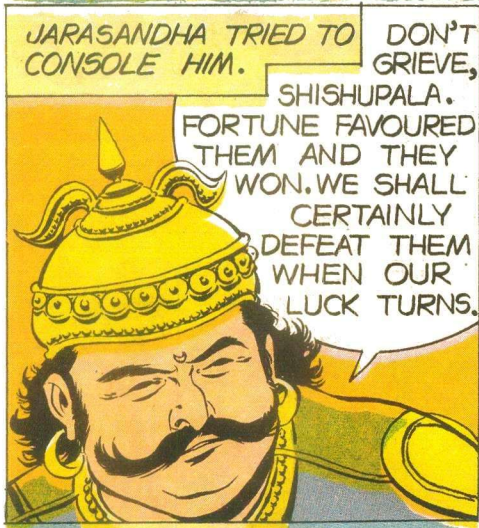
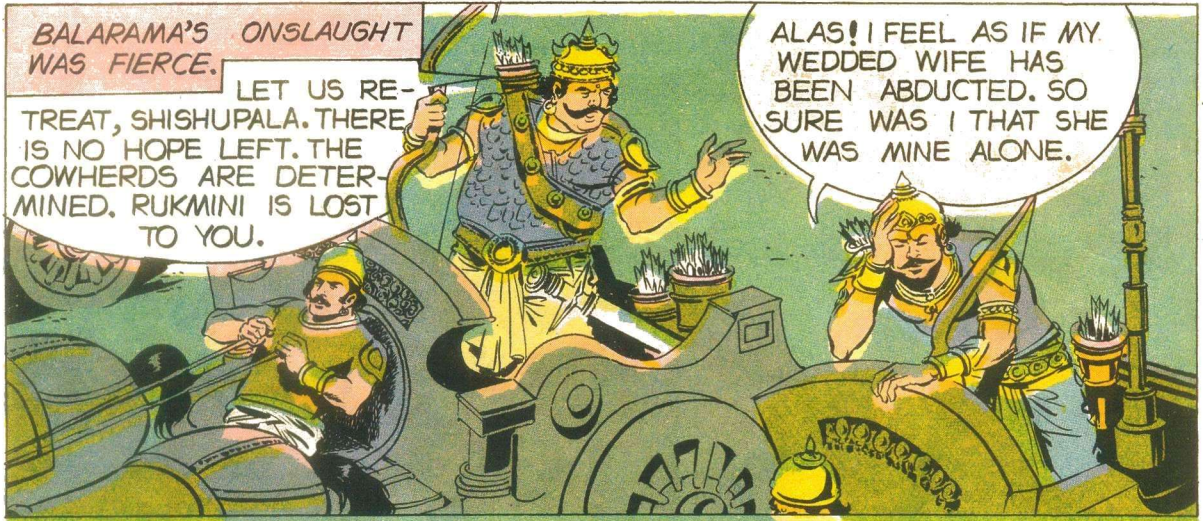


BALARAMA DID NOT TRY TO STOP HIM.

KRISHNA CAN DEAL WITH HIM, EVEN WITH RUKMINI IN HIS CHARIOT.







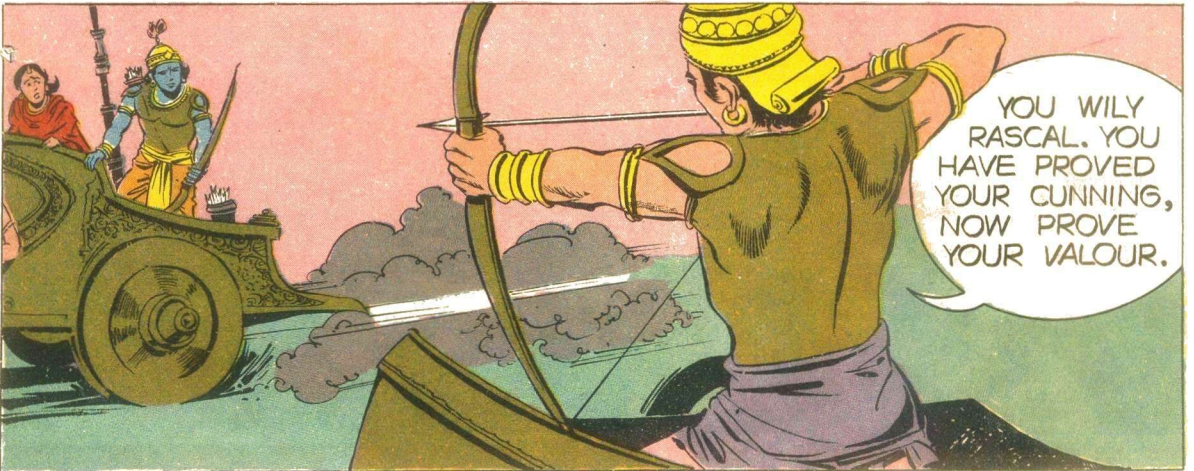
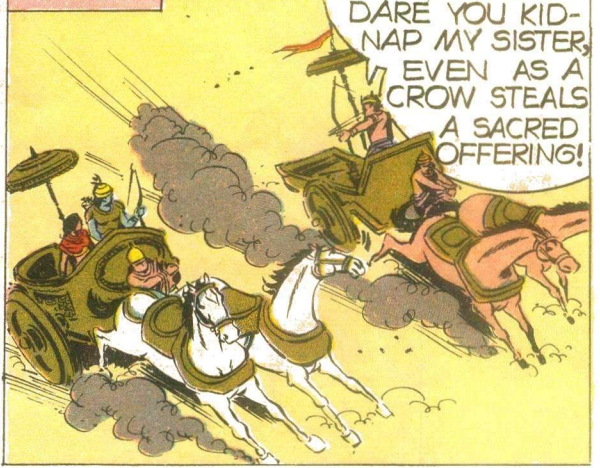




FASTER...  
FASTER...  
FASTER...

SOON HIS CHARIOT  
WAS BUT A FEW  
FEET AWAY FROM  
KRISHNA.

STOP! STOP! WAIT,  
YOU-DISGRACE  
TO THE RACE  
OF YADU! HOW  
DARE YOU KID-  
NAP MY SISTER,  
EVEN AS A  
CROW STEALS  
A SACRED  
OFFERING!



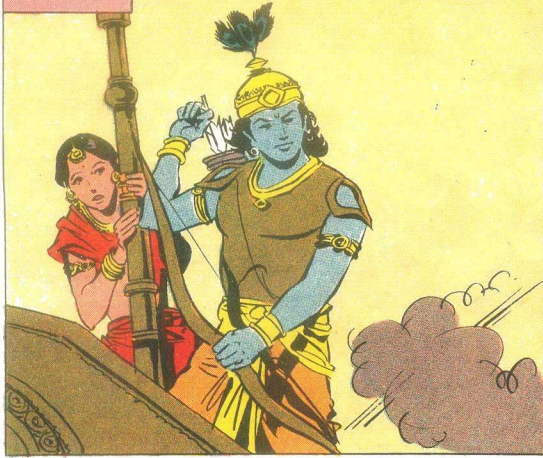
YOU WILY  
RASCAL. YOU  
HAVE PROVED  
YOUR CUNNING,  
NOW PROVE  
YOUR VALOUR.



RUKMI'S ARROW DID NOT EVEN MAKE A DENT IN  
KRISHNA'S ARMOUR.



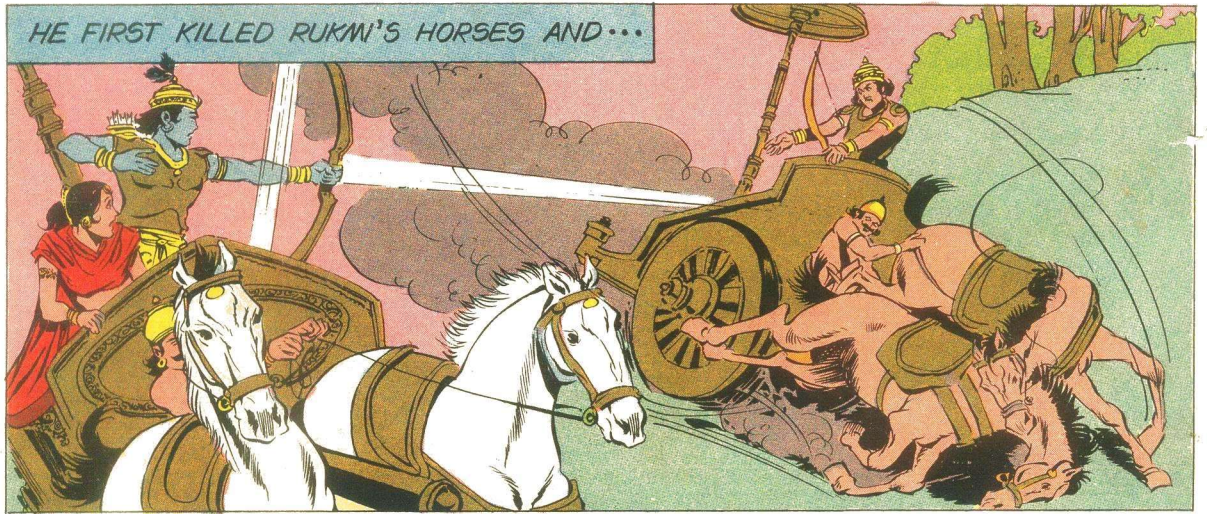
KRISHNA PULLED OUT AN ARROW AND...



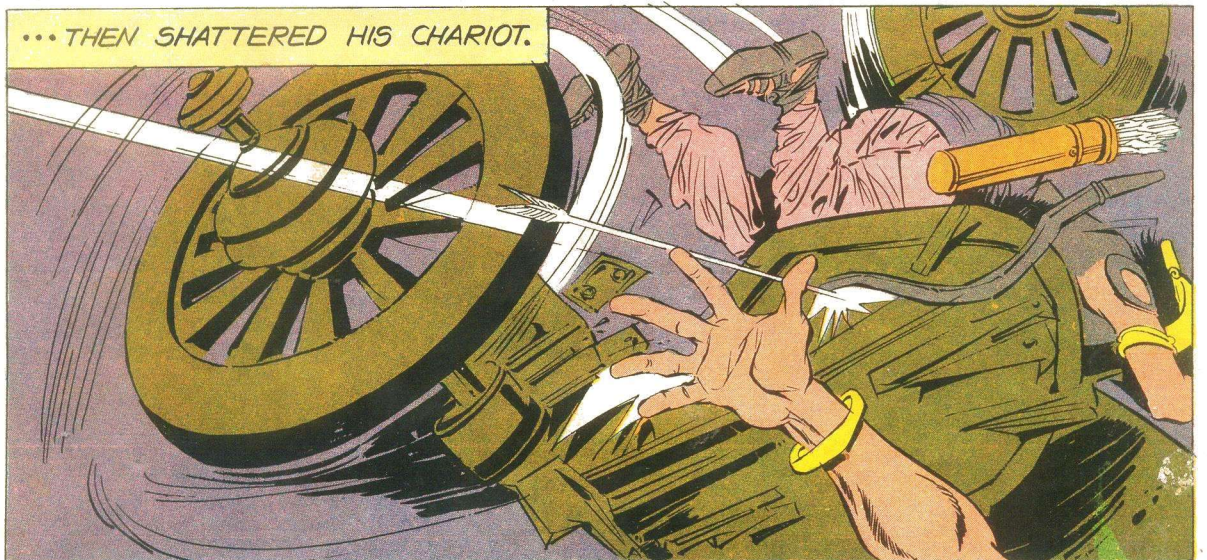
...LIFTED HIS BOW.



HE FIRST KILLED RUKMI'S HORSES AND...

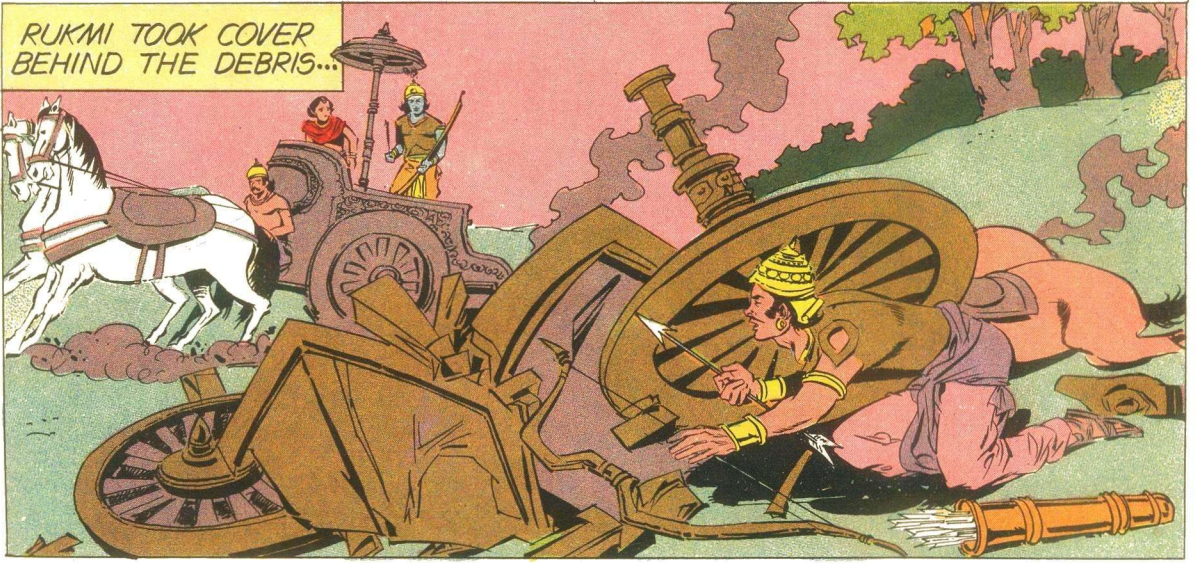


...THEN SHATTERED HIS CHARIOT.

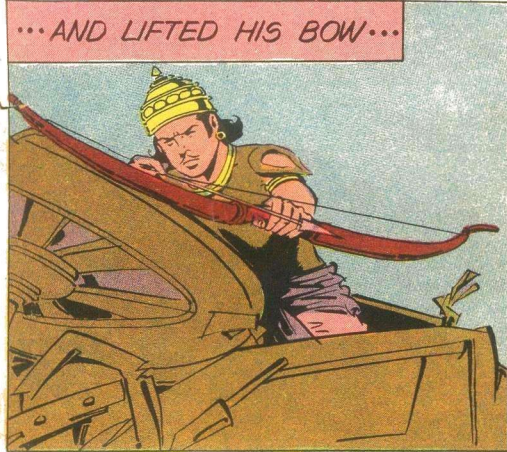




RUKMI TOOK COVER  
BEHIND THE DEBRIS...



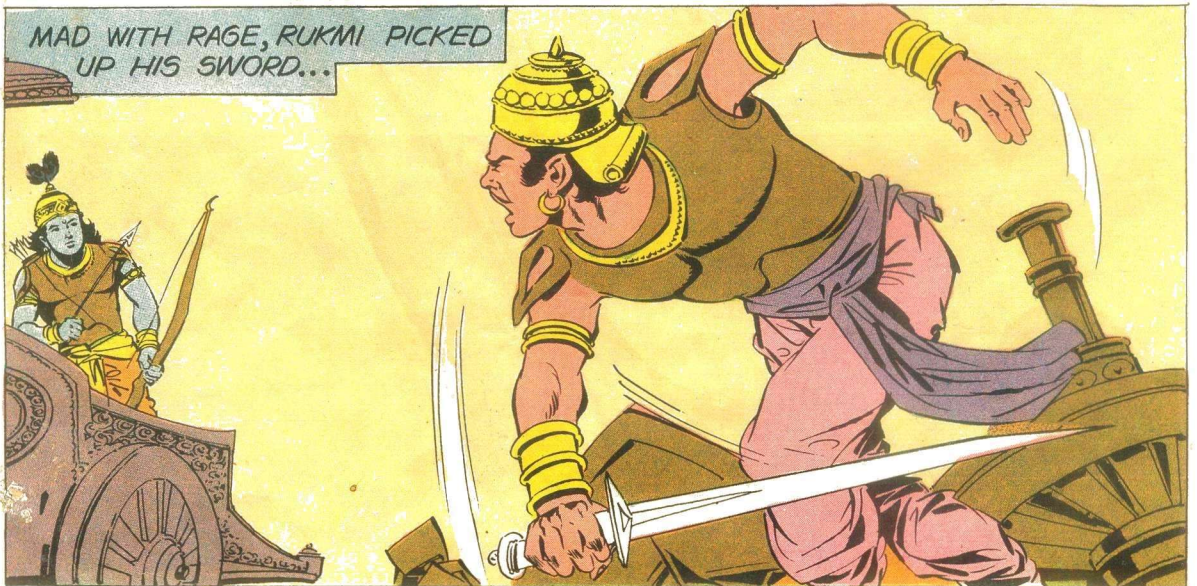
...AND LIFTED HIS BOW...



...ONLY TO HAVE IT BROKEN  
TO BITS.



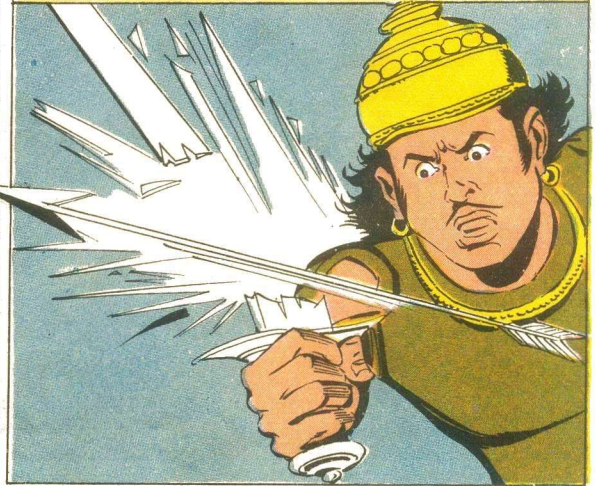
MAD WITH RAGE, RUKMI PICKED  
UP HIS SWORD...



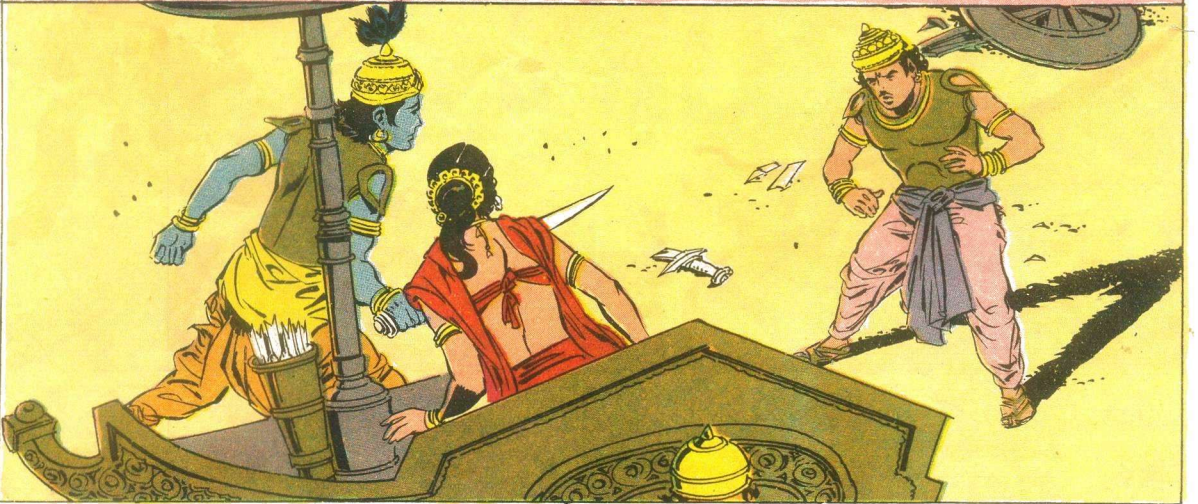


...AND RUSHED TOWARDS KRISHNA.

THE NEXT MOMENT, HOWEVER  
FOUND HIM HOLDING BUT THE HILT.



AS HE THREW IT AWAY IN DISGUST, KRISHNA PICKED UP HIS SWORD AND ...



...WAS ABOUT TO RUSH TOWARDS  
HIM WHEN—



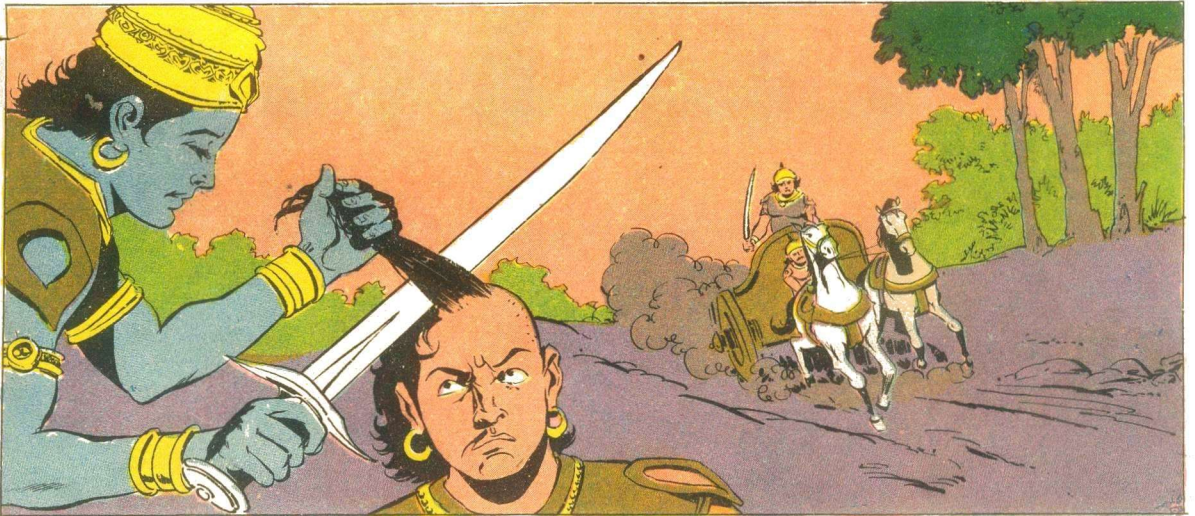
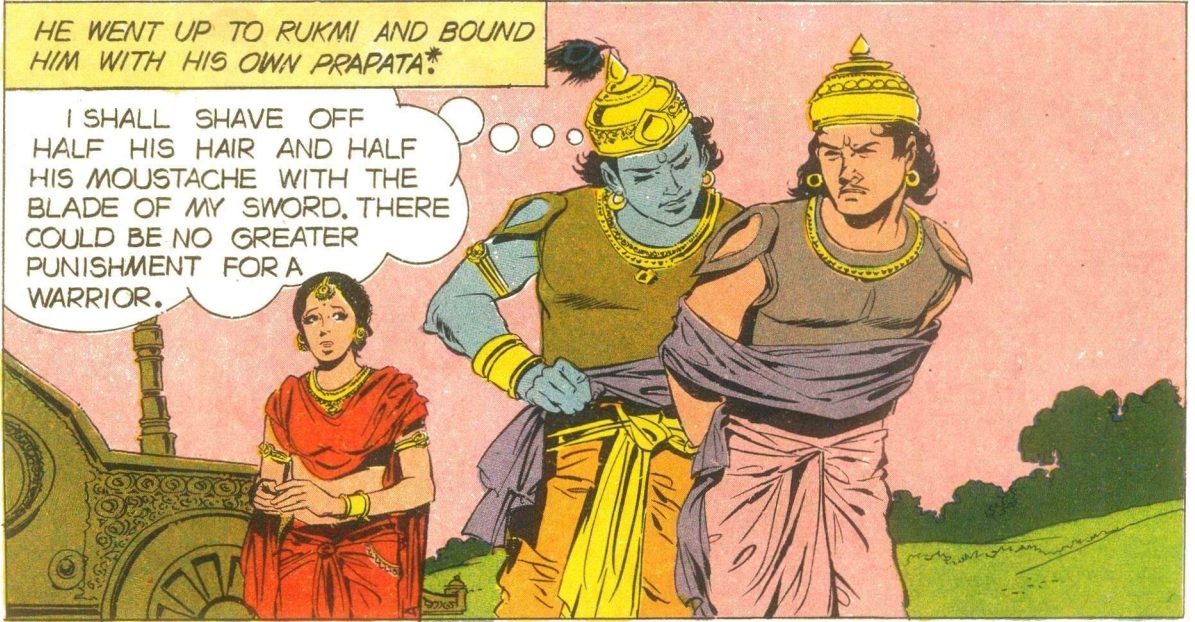
O VIRTUOUS  
LORD, PLEASE  
SPARE MY  
BROTHER.  
PLEASE DON'T  
KILL HIM.

ARISE,  
RUKMINI.  
FOR YOUR SAKE,  
RUKMI SHALL  
LIVE.



HE WENT UP TO RUKMI AND BOUND HIM WITH HIS OWN PRAPATA\*.

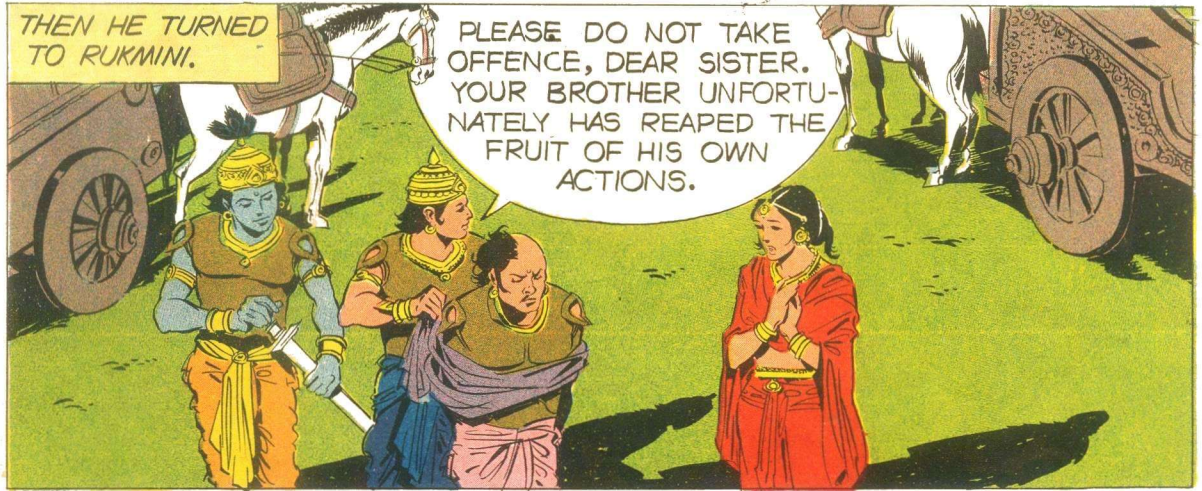
I SHALL SHAVE OFF HALF HIS HAIR AND HALF HIS MOUSTACHE WITH THE BLADE OF MY SWORD. THERE COULD BE NO GREATER PUNISHMENT FOR A WARRIOR.



BALARAMA WAS HORRIFIED.



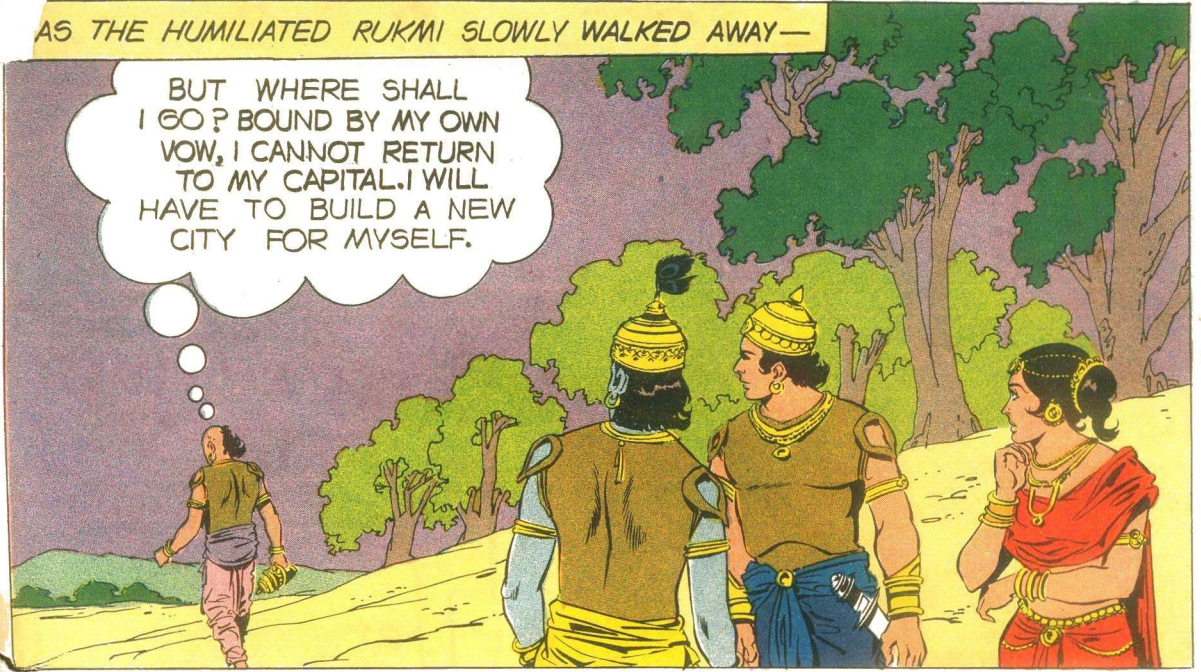






AS THE HUMILIATED RUKMI SLOWLY WALKED AWAY—

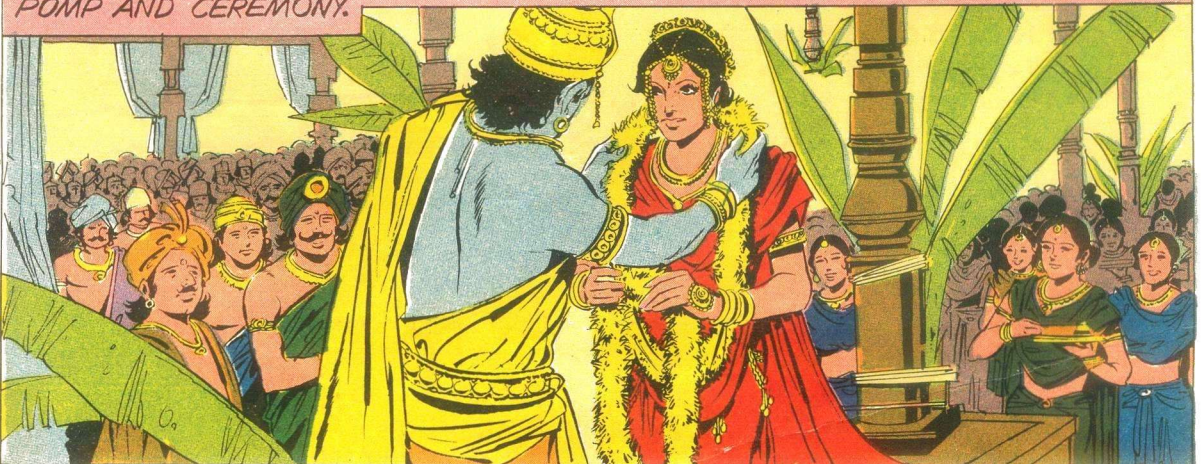
BUT WHERE SHALL I GO? BOUND BY MY OWN VOW, I CANNOT RETURN TO MY CAPITAL. I WILL HAVE TO BUILD A NEW CITY FOR MYSELF.



COME INTO THE CHARIOT, RUKMINI. WE MUST HURRY TO DWARAKA AND HAVE OUR WEDDING SOLEMNISED BY RITUALS.



A FEW DAYS LATER AT DWARAKA, KRISHNA WAS MARRIED TO RUKMINI WITH GREAT POMP AND CEREMONY.







► ISOLY-I  
► ClickIII

# SPOT THE CHARACTER

# CONTEST



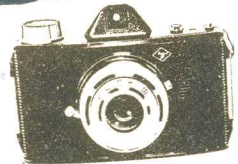
## ATTRACTIVE PRIZES

**1<sup>st</sup>**  
**PRIZE**



► ISOLY-I

**2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**PRIZE**



► ClickIII

**50 CONSOLATION PRIZES**

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**ALL YOU HAVE TO DO** is to name the character indicated in the illustration above

**ALSO** write in not more than 15 words **"HOW PHOTOGRAPHY WORKS"** on a plain sheet of paper in legible writing

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2. All winners will be informed by post.
3. Employees and their children of India Book House Education Trust, and **AGFA-GEVAERT INDIA LIMITED** are not eligible to participate in this contest.
4. The judges decision will be final and binding. Entries must reach the following address

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